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ABSTRACT

In 1994, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in Washington state subsidized child care for about 35,000 children each month, with financial support provided in part by federal funds. The primary objective of this survey, the fourth in a series, was to set local maximum rates for subsidy programs based on the private-paying child care market, thus ensuring compliance with federal requirements and continued federal funding. A second objective was to provide policy makers with additional data about licensed child care in the state, including: (1) the population of children receiving licensed child care; (2) capacity and vacancies in licensed facilities; (3) costs associated with providing child care, such as salaries, benefits, and liability insurance; and (4) characteristics of providers. Following a summary of major findings, the report is presented in six chapters with two appendices. Chapter 1 introduces the study and describes its methods; chapter 2 provides an overview of the industry; chapter 3 gives detailed descriptions of the children in licensed care; chapter 4 describes the traits of providers; chapter 5 details the rates charged for licensed child care; chapter 6 summarizes the use of DSHS child subsidy programs; and two appendices show all available county-by-county data in tables and maps. (EV)

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The 1994 Child Care Rate Study: Licensed Child Care in Washington State

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The 1994 Child Care Rate Study: Licensed Child Care in Washington State

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Budget Division
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Olympia, Washington 98504-5204

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In conjunction with

The Children's Administration,
Office of Child Care Policy

and

The Economic Services Administration,
Division of Employment and Social Services

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We credit Rosie Pavlov and other staff at Washington State University Social and Economic Services Research Center (SESRC) for the high quality of the data used in this report. Since our first combined effort in 1990, SESRC has been an invaluable partner in our ongoing efforts to understand the state's child care market.

Thanks to Karen Tvedt of the Office of Child Care Policy and Liz Dunbar from the Division of Employment and Social Services for their continued support of high quality child care research. Because of their investment, few if any other states can claim to know as much about their child care industry as does Washington State.

Tim Brown's Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) provides a valuable platform from which efforts such as these can take place. Our continued involvement with ORDA assures our access to excellent data retrieval and analysis systems and expertise, and places us adjacent to a diverse and helpful collection of researchers, analysts, and support staff.

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SUMMARY

Background

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) subsidized child care for about 35,000 children each month in 1994. To qualify for child care subsidies, children must be from low-income families with parents who are working, going to school, homeless, or involved in some other DSHS program.

DSHS establishes maximum rates it pays for child care. The rates vary with the child's age, whether the care is full- or part-time, and whether the care is provided in a child care center, a licensed family home, or in the child's own home. And because child care rates vary by location, DSHS sets separate rates for its six administrative regions. Providers charge DSHS their usual and customary rates or the DSHS rate, whichever is less.

Federal funding for these programs is contingent on linking DSHS child care rates to rates paid in the private child care market. Here, we report on the fourth in a series of surveys of the Washington State child care market. For this study, approximately 2,500 providers were interviewed by telephone in the Spring of 1994.

Areas of Analysis

This is a report on the following characteristics of the Washington State licensed child care market:

- Child care rates charged for different age groups, for full- and part-time care in child care centers and licensed family homes.
- Factors associated with higher or lower child care rates.
- Child care provider and client populations.
- Capacity and vacancy rates of licensed child care providers.
- Provider operating hours.
- Provider characteristics, salaries, education, and business costs.
- Children in DSHS-subsidized child care.
- General trends in the child care industry over time.

Major Findings

- *Findings About Child Care Rates*

  - Statewide, the average monthly rate for full-time care was $364 in centers and $330 in homes.

  - Between 1990 and 1994, the average rates for licensed child care increased 22 percent. (9 percent after adjusting for inflation.)

  - Child care rates varied with the age of the child, with the highest rates for infants and the lowest rates for school-age children.

  - On average, child care centers charged more than family homes for all types of child care.

  - In centers, rates tended to be higher at facilities that provided paid benefits and had higher liability insurance premiums, and in facilities that did not take DSHS children.

  - In homes, rates tended to be higher if the provider had course work in early childhood education and if the provider had a college degree.

Major Findings

- *Findings About Centers*

  - There were 1,588 centers in operation.
  - 59 percent of centers were run by government or non-profit organizations.
  - Over 100,000 children were enrolled in licensed centers.
  - Centers had an average capacity of 58 children.
  - 41 percent of children in centers were preschoolers, 3.4 percent were infants.
  - 55 percent of children in centers received full-time care.
  - 64 percent of centers had vacancies; overall, the vacancy rate in centers was 13 percent.
  - Centers employed 16,220 people: aides, teachers, supervisors, and directors.
  - Pay for teachers at centers averaged $6.84 per hour. Aides averaged $5.76.
  - 77 percent of centers provided paid vacation, sick leave, or health insurance.
  - Only one percent of centers were open on weekends.

Major Findings

- *Findings About Family Homes*

  - There were 8,309 family homes in operation.
  - The majority of family homes had been operating five years or less.
  - Over 60,000 children were enrolled in licensed family homes.
  - The average capacity of homes was 5.8 children.
  - 37 percent of children in homes were preschoolers, 6 percent were infants.
  - 54 percent of children in homes received full-time care.
  - 39 percent of family homes had vacancies; overall, the vacancy rate (vacancies/capacity) was 16 percent.
  - 9,930 people were employed in family homes.
  - Assistants in family homes earned an average of $5.50 per hour.
  - Four percent of homes operated during the weekend.
  - One-third of family homes reported that child care was the primary source of their total household income.

Major Findings

- *Findings About DSHS Subsidized Child Care*

  - 35,000 children per month received DSHS subsidized care in 1994.
  - 23,900 children received DSHS subsidized care from licensed providers (centers and Family homes).
  - 14 percent of children in centers and 16 percent of children in family homes received care subsidized by DSHS.
  - 76 percent of centers cared for at least one DSHS-subsidized child.
  - 41 percent of family homes cared for at least one DSHS-subsidized child.
  - About 30 percent of DSHS-subsidized children were in unlicensed child care -- legal but unregulated care in their own or a relatives home.

Organization of this Report

Following this summary, this report is presented in six chapters with two appendices:

- Chapter 1 introduces the study and describes study methods.
- Chapter 2 provides an overview of the child care industry.
- Chapter 3 gives detailed descriptions of the children in licensed care.
- Chapter 4 describes the traits of child care providers.
- Chapter 5 details the rates charged for licensed child care.
- Chapter 6 Summarizes the use of DSHS child subsidy programs.
- Two appendices show all available county-by county data in tables and maps.

This report is similar to the 1990 and 1992 studies of the state's child care market. Those reports, useful references for anyone interested in learning more about state's child care industry, are available from the Office of Research and Data Analysis.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Objectives

In 1994, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) subsidized child care for about 35,000 children each month. Of them, 13,000 children were served by programs administered by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The remaining children were served by programs in Economic Services Administration (ESA). The department's child care programs are coordinated through the Office of Child Care Policy (OCCP) and the Division of Employment and Social Services (DESS).

Financial support for some of these programs was provided by federal Title IV-A funds. Federal funding requires that states base their child care subsidies on local market rates, and that providers receive their customary rates for their services -- up to a maximum which is set by DSHS. To keep up with changes in rates, states must survey the child care market at least every two years.

The primary objective of this survey was to set local maximum rates for subsidy programs based on the private-paying child care market, thus ensuring compliance with federal requirements and continued federal funding. The survey provided information on rates for child care centers and licensed family homes across Washington State.

A second objective of the study was to provide policy makers with additional data about licensed child care in Washington State:

- the population of children receiving licensed child care;
- capacity and vacancies in licensed facilities;
- the costs associated with providing child care, such as salaries, benefits, and liability insurance;
- characteristics of providers, such as professional education, years in operation, whether centers are government run, non-profit, or for profit;
- providers caring for DSHS subsidized children;
- hours of operation;
- trends in rates and compensation, and other changes in the child care market.

Background

Prior to 1988, DSHS paid for child care on an hourly basis. In 1987, the Office of Research and Data Analysis surveyed the child care market for the first time. Based on that study, DSHS established maximum child care rates for the Family Independence Program (FIP). The FIP rate structure included rates for full-time, half-day, and part-time hourly child care. From 1988 to 1991, DSHS operated with two distinct child care rate schedules, the one used by FIP and another, which paid only hourly, used by all other child care programs in the department. In January, 1991, with legislative directive and funding, DSHS adopted the FIP child care schedule for use in all its child care subsidy programs.

The Legislature subsequently required DSHS to set its maximum child care subsidies at a specified percentile of the market. Based on the 1990 survey of the child care market, DSHS established new rates in December, 1991. These rates were set at the 55th percentile of market rates for licensed centers and for licensed family homes.

Keeping with Federal Title IV-A requirements, in 1993 the legislature mandated that DSHS raise its maximum rates to the 75th percentile of rates observed in local markets. This means 75 percent of providers would receive their usual and customary charges when caring for DSHS-subsidized children.

DSHS Regions and Child Care Markets

Market rates for child care vary widely across Washington State. To ensure clients access to child care, whether they live in areas of more costly child care or in areas with relatively inexpensive care, DSHS previously divided the state's 39 counties into rate clusters or local markets. Groupings of counties into clusters were based on similarities in county-wide median rates for full-time and part-time child care in centers -- as observed in the 1990 survey (Miller, Miller, and Mumaw, 1991). Four rate clusters were established at that time.

The 1994 child care rate survey showed that the four clusters established in 1990 no longer reflected local markets. Rates had sufficiently changed since 1990 to merit another look at how counties should be clustered. Also, family home rates, not used when counties were clustered in 1990, were included in the new cluster analysis. That analysis proved that the four clusters currently in use by DSHS were no longer appropriate.

A number of clustering approaches were presented to DSHS management. The new options were improvements over the current DSHS clusters in that they more accurately reflected local markets. Implementing the new options, however, would have meant lowering maximum rates in some markets, markets previously linked with high cost areas such as King County. The consequences of re-clustering -- lowering maximum rates for some counties -- and the knowledge that in another two or four years counties may have to be re-clustered again, led to a compromise solution. DSHS regions were chosen to represent local child care markets.

DSHS has six administrative regions which are an acceptable option for setting maximum rates for subsidized child care. Incidentally, these regions isolate high population, high-cost counties (e.g. King) and are reasonable boundaries for calculating local markets rates. The regions have the added benefit of being well-known, stable administrative boundaries; regional boundaries are not likely to be redrawn every two or four years. The distribution of counties among DSHS Regions is shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

Figure 1.

Table 1. Assignment of Counties into DSHS Regions

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
Adams	Asotin	Island	King	Kitsap	Clallam
Chelan	Benton	San Juan		Pierce	Clark
Douglas	Columbia	Skagit			Cowlitz
Ferry	Franklin	Snohomish			Grays Harbor
Grant	Garfield	Whatcom			Jefferson
Lincoln	Kittitas				Klickitat
Okanogan	Walla Walla				Lewis
Pend Oreille	Yakima				Mason
Spokane					Pacific
Stevens					Skamania
Whitman					Thurston
					Wahkiakum

Study Methods

Licensed Facilities

The child care facilities surveyed for this study fall into two licensing categories: (1) child care centers (centers) and (2) family child care homes (family homes or homes). This survey does not account for unlicensed or illegal care. (Not all unlicensed care is illegal. For example, child care provided in the child's home or by a relative in the relative's home is not subject to licensing; it is legal, but is considered unlicensed care.)

Centers, facilities that are not residences, are licensed to care for any number of children -- subject to certain staff and space requirements. Family homes are located in residences and are licensed to care for up to 12 children -- subject to the provider's education, experience, and staffing.

As of February, 1994, there were 1,588 licensed child care centers in Washington State caring for about 102,000 children. There were also 8,309 family homes in the state caring for over 60,000 children.

Survey of Child Care Centers

Staff at Washington State University's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) attempted to interview directors of all the licensed child care centers in Washington State. The list of centers to be surveyed comprised every child care center licensed in the state as of January 1, 1994. Interviews were conducted from February 17 to March 24, 1994. During this time, most school-age children were attending school. Therefore, the data reflect the child care market as it exists approximately nine months out of the year.

The SESRC attempted to contact all 1,588 centers by telephone. Completion rate statistics for centers are summarized in Table 2. Interviewers disqualified 118 because the providers were out of business or not currently offering child care. Of the remaining 1,470 centers, 1,215 completed interviews for a completion rate of over 83 percent of eligible centers. 255 eligible centers either refused to participate in the survey or were unavailable during the interview period. If a center had a working phone number, interviewers attempted five phone calls before dropping that center from the sample.

When analyzing the data it was assumed that non-responding centers were similar to those that responded to the survey. It was assumed, further, that the turnover of centers is rapid enough that new centers replaced those that were no longer in business. To reflect the responses of all centers, a weighting factor was established for the number of centers in a county relative to the number of centers surveyed. When appropriate, these weights were applied throughout.

Table 2. 1994 Center Survey--Sample Completion Rate Statistics

	Number	Sub-Total Percent	Grand-Total Percent
Eligible Child Care Centers			
Completed Interviews (1)	1215	82.7%	76.5%
Refused	67	4.6%	4.2%
Not Available (2)	188	12.8%	11.8%
Sub-Total	1470	100.0%	92.6%
Excluded Child Care Centers			
Ineligible (3)	71	60.2%	4.5%
Non-Working Number (4)	47	39.8%	3.0%
Sub-Total	118	100.0%	7.4%
Total	1588	--	100.0%

(1) Includes 12 partially complete interviews.
(2) Unable to reach in five attempts or answering machine.
(3) Not a child care provider, or no longer in business.
(4) Disconnected numbers, wrong numbers, duplicates, or electronic device.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

Survey of Family Homes

Between April 1 and May 6, 1994, staff at the SESRC interviewed 15% random sample of the state's licensed family home child care providers. As with the survey of child care centers, data from these interviews reflect the child care market as it existed during the school year.

The SESRC attempted to contact 1,910 family homes by telephone. Interviewers disqualified 403 providers who were out of business, operating as a child care center, or not currently offering child care. Of the remaining 1,507 eligible family homes, 1,267 completed interviews for a completion rate of 84%. Two-hundred-and-forty eligible providers either refused to participate in the survey or were unavailable during the

interview period. Interviewers attempted to contact all working phone numbers five times. Completion rate statistics for the family home survey are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. 1994 Family-Home Survey--Sample Completion Rate Statistics

	Number	Sub-Total Percent	Grand-Total Percent
Eligible Family Homes			
Completed Interviews (1)	1267	84.1%	66.3%
Refused	50	3.3%	2.6%
Not Available (2)	190	12.6%	9.9%
Sub-Total	1507	100.0%	78.9%
Excluded Family Homes			
Ineligible (3)	234	58.1%	12.3%
Non-Working Number (4)	169	41.9%	8.8%
Sub-Total	403	100.0%	21.1%
Total Sample	1910	--	100.0%

(1) Includes 16 partially complete interviews.
(2) Unable to reach in five attempts, answering machine, or language problem.
(3) Not a child care provider, or was a child care center.
(4) Disconnected numbers, wrong numbers, duplicates, or electronic device.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

Sampling Methods for the Family Home Survey

Some counties in the state have so few licensed family homes that a random sample drawn from a pool of all counties might leave small counties underrepresented in this study. As of January 1, 1994, there were 8,309 DSHS-licensed family homes in the state. The number of licensed homes varied widely among counties, from one home each in Ferry, Garfield, and Columbia Counties to over 2,000 in King County. (See Table 4 and Appendix B) To reduce the chance that small counties might be under-represented, the

sample was stratified according to the number of licensed family home child care providers in a given county.

The counties were separated into five groups or strata. In counties with fewer than 40 homes, every home was sampled. Approximately one out of every two providers was selected in counties with 40 to 59 homes. About one of every three homes were sampled in counties with 60 to 79 homes. And for counties with 80 or more homes, approximately one out of every five providers were selected. This last stratum excluded King County -- the county with the most providers. After interviewers exhausted the samples in the first four strata, they continued to sample and interview family homes in King County until completing at least 1,200 total interviews.

The numbers of homes in each county -- organized into the five sample strata-- are shown in Table 4. Also shown are the sample sizes drawn from each county, the number of completed interviews, and their corresponding percent of the population. For analysis, we weighed all the data from family homes to account for participation rates and for the different sampling rates in each county.

Non-response Due to Language Incompatibility

One notable problem concerning possible non-response bias in the family home survey stems from the inability of interviewers to survey providers who did not speak English. Forty-seven such providers, most of whom spoke Spanish, were excluded from the interview.

The obstacle of language incompatibility arose in 11 counties: Adams, Benton, Chelan, Clark, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, King, Walla Walla, and Yakima. Though most counties had only one or two such cases, 24% of the Chelan and 17% of the Benton County samples were excluded because of language incompatibility.

Language incompatibility was a problem for less than 2.5% of the family home sample and 30% of the counties. Overall, it probably did not introduce a serious non-response bias. A possible bias should be considered when interpreting results for Chelan and Benton Counties. Future surveys will include a survey intrument translated into spanish.

Table 4. 1994 Family Home Survey--Total Homes, Homes Surveyed and Number of Homes Surveyed by County and Strata

	Licensed Homes	Homes Sampled	Homes Interviewed	Percent of All Homes Interviewed
Fewer than 40 Family Homes				
ADAMS	33	33	19	57.6%
ASOTIN	8	8	7	87.5%
COLUMBIA	1	1	1	100.0%
FERRY	1	1	1	100.0%
GARFIELD	1	1	1	100.0%
JEFFERSON	12	12	11	91.7%
KITTITAS	33	33	30	90.9%
KLICKITAT	34	34	21	61.8%
LINCOLN	14	14	10	71.4%
PACIFIC	14	14	9	64.3%
PEND OREILLE	4	4	3	75.0%
SAN JUAN	15	15	11	73.3%
SKAMANIA	10	10	2	20.0%
WAHKIAKUM	3	3	2	66.7%
Totals	183	183	128	69.9%
41 to 60 Family Homes				
CLALLAM	57	27	20	35.1%
LEWIS	56	27	14	25.0%
STEVENS	45	23	4	8.9%
WALLA WALLA	53	26	15	28.3%
Totals	211	103	53	25.1%
61 to 79 Family Homes				
COWLITZ	79	24	16	20.3%
DOUGLAS	78	29	9	11.5%
GRAYS HARBOR	74	24	20	27.0%
ISLAND	70	22	17	24.3%
MASON	74	26	15	20.3%
OKANOGAN	76	24	13	17.1%
WHITMAN	70	23	16	22.9%
Totals	521	172	106	20.3%
80 or more Family Homes				
BENTON	291	53	39	13.4%
CHELAN	150	33	15	10.0%
CLARK	663	143	86	13.0%
FRANKLIN	102	21	12	11.8%
GRANT	200	43	20	10.0%
KITSAP	334	65	44	13.2%
PIERCE	762	157	122	16.0%
SKAGIT	144	30	28	19.4%
SNOHOMISH	1006	187	128	12.7%
SPOKANE	618	131	95	15.4%
THURSTON	316	70	44	13.9%
WHATCOM	137	26	20	14.6%
YAKIMA	599	128	69	11.5%
Totals	5322	1087	722	13.6%
King County				
KING Totals	2068	357	255	12.3%
COUNTY UNKNOWN	3	3	3	100.0%
GRAND TOTALS	8309	1905	1267	15.2%

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Family Homes

CHAPTER 2. THE CHILD CARE MARKET

Child Care Population

Based on the surveys conducted From February through May 1994, we estimate that 162,000 children in Washington State were in licensed care. About 63% of these children were in child care centers and the remaining 37% were in licensed family homes.

In-home care (care in the child's home, not subject to licensing) and unlicensed out-of-home care were not part of this study. These populations, however, were estimated in 1990. Assuming the proportion of children in these situations has remained the same since the 1990 study, the number of children in unlicensed out-of-home and in-home child care were 51,551 and 35,085 respectively. Therefore, there may have been over 248,000 children in paid, licensed and unlicensed child care in Washington State during the study period. (Table 5.)

In the following chapter more detailed information about child care populations in Washington State is provided in Table 7 for centers and in Table 8 for family homes.

Table 5. Estimates of Children in Licensed and Unlicensed Child Care, February to April, 1994. With Licensed Capacity and Vacancies in Homes and Centers.

		Children Enrolled	Total [1] Capacity	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy[2] Rate
Licensed Care					
Centers	Full-Time	55,444			
	Part-Time	46,237			
Total in Centers		101,681	91,469	11,751	12.8%
Family Homes	Full-Time	32,560			
	Part-Time	27,514			
Total in Family Homes		60,074	48,519	7,976	16.4%
Total in Licensed Care		161,755	139,988	19,727	14.1%
Unlicensed Care [3]					
Out-of-Home		51,551			
In-Home		35,085			
Total Unlicensed Care		86,636			
Total in Licensed and Unlicensed Care		248,391			

[1] For centers, licensed capacity. Family homes, FTE children plus vacancies.
[2] Vacancy rate = vacancies/capacity.
[3] From proportions in the 1990 survey. [Child Care Rates in Washington: 1990.]

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Employment and Income

Based on child care rates and populations reported in the 1994 surveys, we estimate that licensed child care providers in Washington State earned more than $500 million in 1994. As shown in Table 6, the licensed child care industry also employed 26,148 persons during the time of the interview.

Table 6. Total Child Care Employment and Revenue in Washington State's Child Care Industry, 1992 and 1994

	Employeed		Renenue in $Millions	
	1992	1994	1992	1994
Centers	15,200	16,220	$292	$363
Family Homes	9,400	9,928	$141	$178
All Licensed Facilities	**24,600**	**26,148**	**$433**	**$541**
Out-of Home Care[1]	7,500	8,521	$113	$163
In-Home Care[2]	13,600	15,948	$77	$104
Unlicensed Care[3]	**21,100**	**24,469**	**$190**	**$267**
Industry Total	**45,700**	**50,617**	**$623**	**$808**

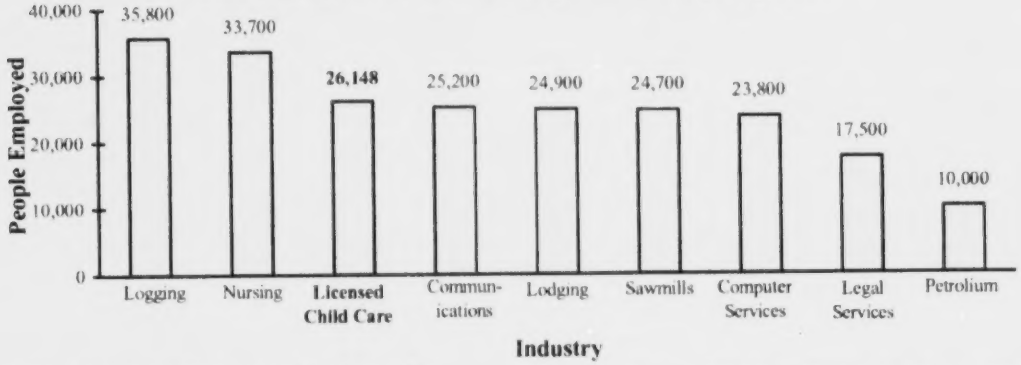
[1] Includes unlicensed out-of-home care provided by non-relatives that should, by law, be licensed. Number employed based on family-home adult-child ratio.
[2] Number of in-home care employees bsed on 1990 survey: (2.2 children/caregiver.)
[3] Assumes same cost per child as in licensed family home care: $2,957/child/year.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 and 1992 Surveys of Centers and Homes.

Child Care Compared to Other Industries

Measured by number of employees, the Washington State licensed child care industry was larger than a number of other important industries in the state. The number of people employed by the state's licensed child care facilities is compared with other selected industries in Figure 2. For example, there were more people working in Washington State licensed child care facilities than there were working in the state's sawmills, lodging, or petroleum industries, in communications, or in legal or computer services.

Figure 2. Employment in Licensed Child Care and Other Industries* in Washington State, Spring 1994



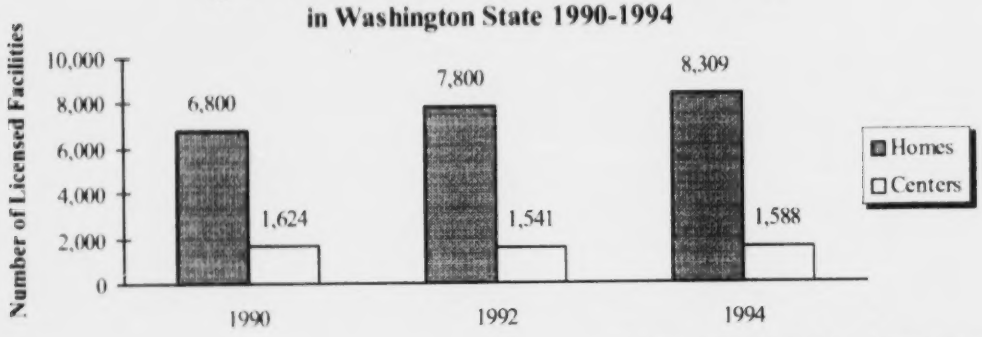
*"Other Industry" employment data from Washington State Employment Security Department, March 1994.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Growth of the Licensed Child Care Industry

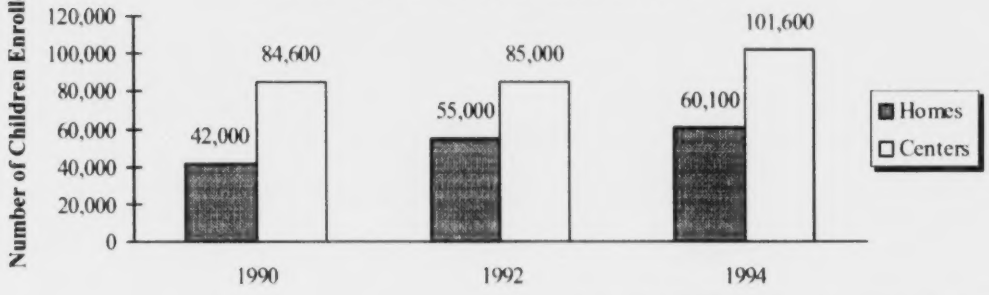
The following two graphs show how the licensed child care industry grew from 1990 to 1994. Each period shows a steady increase in the number of licensed family homes, while the number of centers remained virtually unchanged (Figure 3). At that time, the number of children enrolled in licensed child care increased for both centers and homes (Figure 4). The increase in center populations was due, in part, to an increase in average capacity in centers, from 54 in 1990 to 58 in 1994. Also, the 1994 survey obtained a more complete accounting of school-age children.

Figure 3. Growth of Licensed Child Care Facilities in Washington State 1990-1994



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Figure 4. Growth of Enrollment in Washington State Licensed Child Care Facilities 1990-1994



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

CHAPTER 3. CHILDREN IN LICENSED CARE

Age Groups

In this study children were assigned to discrete age groups consistent with definitions used in DSHS licensing and with how providers charge based on age. DSHS child care regulations differ with child age. For example, in child care centers one adult may care for only four infants or may care for up to 15 school-age children. Consequently, providers' rates vary depending on the child's age because very young children tend to require more adult supervision than older children.

The following age classes used in this report are also used for DSHS licensing, setting maximum subsidy rates, and are consistent with age classifications used by many child care providers:

- Infant: under 12 months of age
- Toddler: from 12 to 29 months
- Preschooler: from 30 to 59 months.
- School-age: from five to 12 years old.
- Kindergarten: A subgroup of the school-age population attending kindergarten. Children in this age group are more likely than older children to require full-time child care. This age group was used only in the center survey.

Full-Time and Part-Time Care

Providers may charge differently depending on how much time a child spends in care; DSHS sets its maximum subsidies accordingly. Full-Time care, as defined by DSHS and used in this survey, refers to care provided 30 or more hours per week. Care is part-time if the child receives fewer than 30 hours of care per week.

Family home providers reported the number of hours of care each child received in a week. In this report, most of the data on child population is reported in numbers of children. Occasionally, however, family home population data are reported in terms of full-time-equivalents (FTEs). FTEs are calculated in the following manner: If a child is in care for 30 or more hours per week, its FTE is the number of days in care during the week divided by five. If a child is in care for less than thirty hours, then its FTE is the total number of hours in care during the week divided by 40.

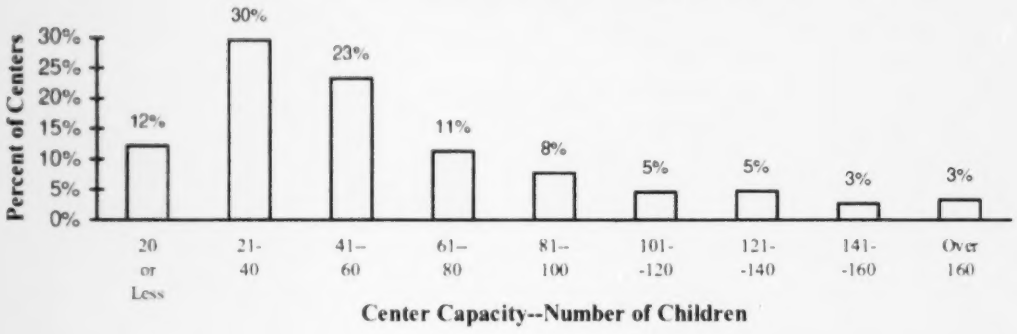
Child Care Centers

Capacity of Centers

The licensed capacity of a child care facility is the maximum number of children allowed on the premises at any one time. Child care centers, in general, have larger capacities than family homes. In centers, licensed capacity ranged as high as 325 children in one facility (Figure 5). The majority of centers, however, has capacities under 60 children.

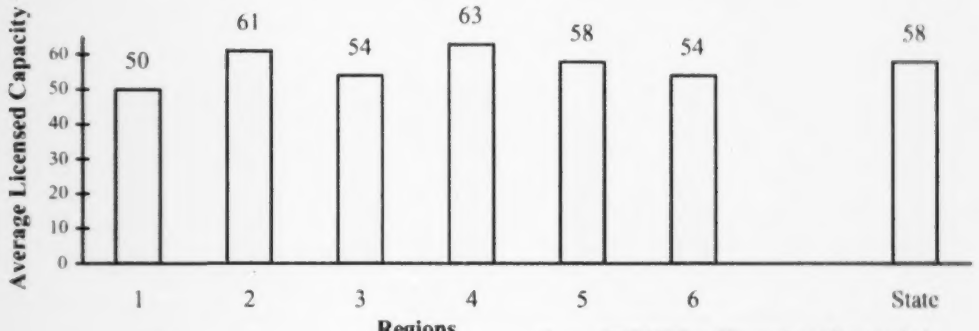
Average capacity varied among the six regions: As shown in Figure 6, the average capacity in centers ranged from 50 children per center in Region-1 to 63 children per center in Region-4. State-wide, the average capacity was 58 children per center.

Figure 5. The Distribution of Centers by Capacity



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Figure 6. Average Capacity of Centers by Region



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

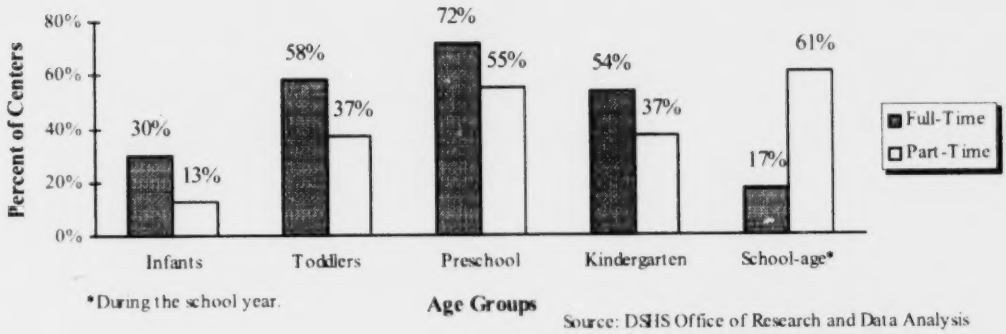
Full-Time and Part-Time Care in Centers

Some centers offered only full-time or only part-time care to certain age groups. The proportions of the state's centers offering full-time or part-time care are shown in Figure 7. Overall, more centers offered full-time care than part-time care.

More centers provided full-time care to preschoolers than to any other age-group: 72 % of centers cared for full-time preschoolers. The least common care provided by centers was that offered to infants: 30% of centers cared for infants full-time and only 13% of centers offered part-time infant care.

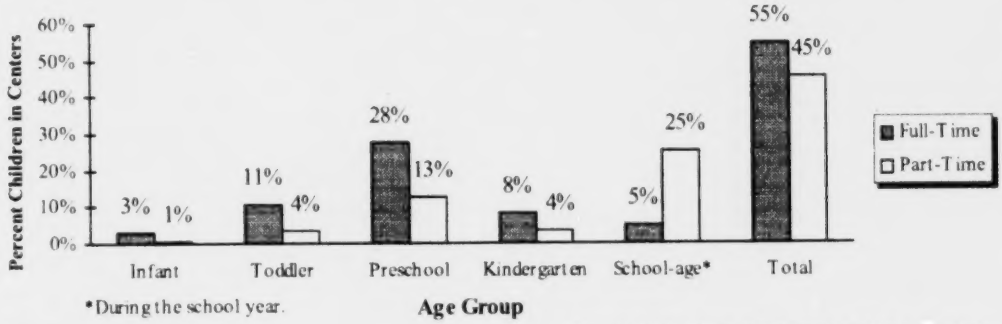
The estimated distribution of children in centers by age group and time-in-care is summarized in Figure 8 and Table 7. Preschoolers in full-time care were the largest group in the center population (28%). Infants in part-time care, the smallest group, comprised less than 1% of the population of children in centers.

Figure 7. Centers Providing Full- and Part-Time Care by Age Group



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Figure 8. Children in Centers in Full- or Part-Time Care



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 7. Estimated Child Care Center Populations by Age and Region: 1994

Full-Time Population Estimate [1]

	DSHS Region						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	All
Infant	367	333	388	1,061	330	289	2,768
Toddler	1,374	1,115	1,851	4,051	1,527	1,130	11,048
Preschool	3,205	2,774	3,946	10,579	4,261	3,492	28,257
Kindergarten	1,223	631	1,129	2,847	1,325	1,213	8,368
School-age[2]	528	208	759	2,327	866	415	5,103
Total Full-Time	6,697	5,061	8,073	20,865	8,309	6,539	55,544

Part-Time Population Estimate [1]

	DSHS Region						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	All
Infant	107	53	82	207	145	72	666
Toddler	420	252	610	1,421	545	321	3,569
Preschool	1,484	1,242	2,352	4,824	1,522	1,481	12,905
Kindergarten	635	413	434	1,260	451	370	3,563
School-age[3]	2,753	2,563	3,618	9,290	3,782	3,528	25,534
Total Part-Time	5,399	4,523	7,096	17,002	6,445	5,772	46,237

[1] Children in sample multiplied by a county weighting factor to estimate population.

[2] Survey was conducted during the school year. School-age children in part-time care may switch to full-time care in the summers.

[3] Part-time school-age total includes before- and after-school care.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Family Homes

Children in Family Homes

Children in licensed family homes receive care in a provider's residence. Because family homes are licensed to care for 12 or fewer children, their average licensed capacity is considerably less than that of centers.

Family home providers' legal capacity (including their own children) averaged 8.3. However, we estimated actual capacity by summing their enrollment and reported vacancies. The average family home cared for 7.2 (4.8 FTE) children (in addition to a provider's own children). Family homes reported one vacancy on average. Thus we estimated the average capacity of family homes as follows: 4.8 FTEs enrolled + 1 vacancy = an average capacity of 5.8.

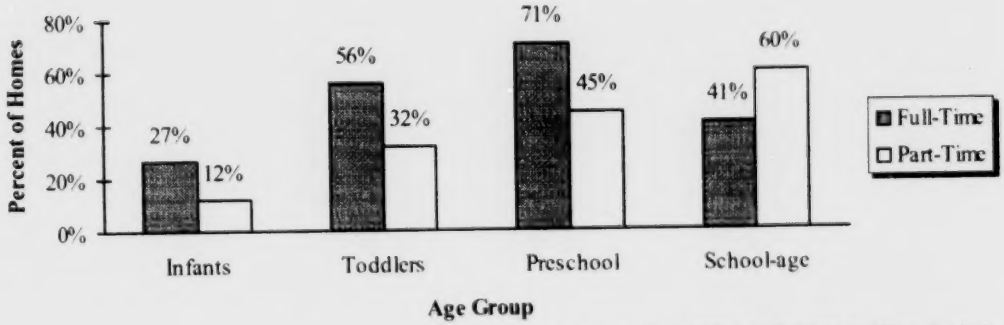
Full-Time and Part-Time Care in Family Homes

The most common care provided by family homes was full-time child care for preschoolers. Over 70% of family homes provided full-time care to preschoolers. Only 12% of homes provided part-time care to infants. Figure 9 shows the proportion of homes that provided full-time or part-time care to each age group.

Figure 10 shows the distribution of children in family homes by age group and part-time or full-time status. The estimated populations of children in family homes, by regions, age group, and time-in-care is presented in Table 8. Preschoolers and school-age children were the largest groups (both 37%) of children in family homes. Only 6% of children in family homes were infants. (Note that school-age includes kindergarten, a group of children treated separately in the center survey.)

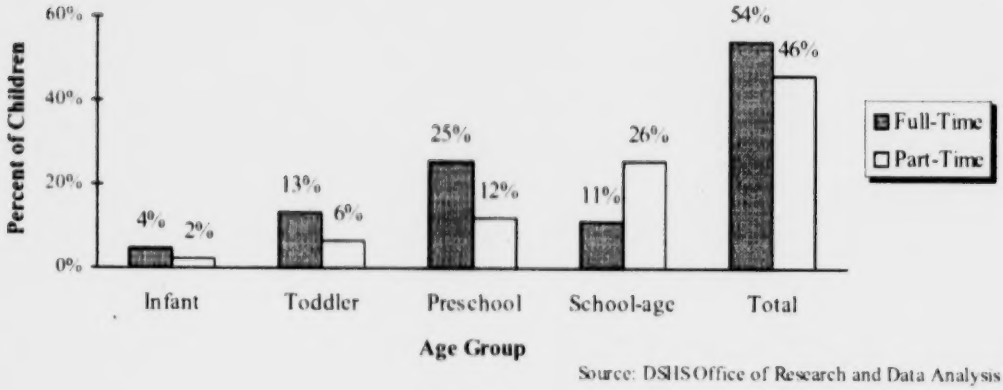
Slightly more children in family homes (54%) received full-time care than received part-time care. As they did in centers, preschoolers made up the largest segment of children receiving full-time care in family homes. Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were all more likely to be in full-time rather than part-time care. School-age children, because of their need for before- and after-school care, were most likely to receive part-time care and were the largest segment of the part-time population.

Figure 9. Homes Providing Full- or Part-Time Care by Age Group



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Figure 10. Children in Homes in Full- or Part-Time Care



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Table 8. Estimated Family Home Child Care Populations by Age and Region: 1994

Full-Time Population Estimate [1]

	DSHS Region						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	All
Infant	397	367	274	927	337	396	2,698
Toddler	1,161	1,164	1,065	2,343	1,209	1,095	8,037
Preschool	2,500	2,012	2,243	4,045	2,127	2,336	15,264
School-age[2]	1,323	1,067	912	1,214	1,005	1,041	6,562
Total Full-Time	5,381	4,610	4,495	8,529	4,677	4,868	32,560

Part-Time Population Estimate [1]

	DSHS Region						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	All
Infant	157	149	175	388	142	173	1,183
Toddler	495	434	697	1,189	444	510	3,769
Preschool	1,128	647	1,562	1,635	914	1,220	7,105
School-age	2,311	1,657	3,269	2,715	2,408	3,097	15,457
Total Part-Time	4,091	2,886	5,702	5,927	3,908	5,000	27,514

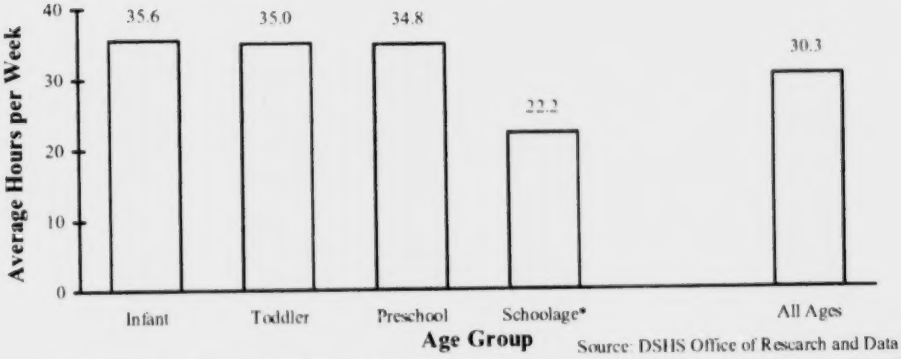
[1] Children in sample multiplied by a county weighting factor to estimate population.
[2] Survey was conducted during the school year. School-age children in part-time care may switch to full-time care in the summer.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Hours of Care in Family Homes

Children in family homes spent an average of 30.3 hours per week in child care. Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers spent the most time in care. School-age children spent the least time in care (22.2 hours/week) because they were more likely to be in school most of the day. Average time in care for all children and for children by age-group is shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Hours per Week in Family Home Care by Age Group



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

*Significant difference with 99.9% confidence.

Homes Caring for Children With Disabilities

Providers at family homes were asked if they cared for any children with long-term physical, mental, or behavioral conditions that require additional attention. In 1994, approximately seven percent of children in family homes had some form of disability that required additional attention; 31% of family homes cared for disabled children. When asked this question in 1992, 37% of centers responded that they cared for disabled children.

Vacancies and Capacity in Centers and Homes

Overall, 14.1% of licensed child care slots were vacant during the survey period. The vacancy rate is the number of vacancies as a percent of total capacity. To estimate vacancies, providers were asked how many openings they had for children of any age. The average response was one vacancy per family home and 7.4 vacancies per center.

Centers simply reported their licensed capacity. In homes, capacity was estimated by adding the number of FTE children in a given home to the number of vacancies reported by the provider (assuming each vacancy to be a full-time slot). The average capacity in homes was 5.8 and in centers 58.

Table 9 shows total full-time capacity of centers and family homes, total vacancies, and the overall vacancy rate for licensed child care. Vacancy rates were 12.8% for child care centers and 16.4% for family homes. Not all facilities had vacancies: 64% of centers and 39% of homes reported at least one vacancy. Among regions, these percentages differed significantly for both homes and centers (See Tables 11 and 13). Centers with vacancies had an average vacancy rate of 18.8%, and homes with vacancies had an average vacancy rate of 37.3%.

Table 9. Capacity and Vacancies for Licensed Child Care in Washington

Capacity and Vacancies in:	Total [1] Capacity	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy[2] Rate
All Centers	91,469	11,751	12.8%
Per Center	57.6	7.4	
All Family Homes	48,519	7,976	16.4%
Per Family Home	5.8	1.0	
All Licensed Facilites	139,988	19,727	14.1%

[1] For centers, the maximum number of children a provider may legally care for at one time (licensed capacity).
For family homes, the FTE children in care plus vacancies.
[2] Vacancy rate = vacancies/capacity.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Vacancy Rates by Region

The average vacancy rates for centers and homes in each region are shown in Table 10. For family homes, there were no significant differences in vacancy rates among regions. There was, however, a wide range of average center vacancy rates among regions, from 8.8% in Region-1 to 16.4% in Region-3. Nevertheless, the differences from region to region in vacancy rates at centers were not statistically significant.

Table 10. Vacancy Rates in Child Care Centers and Family Homes by Region

	Vacancy Rates in	
Region*	Centers	Homes
1	8.8%	17.5%
2	14.1%	14.6%
3	16.4%	17.0%
4	12.7%	16.9%
5	13.1%	14.2%
6	10.9%	17.7%
Total	12.8%	16.4%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys Centers and Homes

*Difference between regions not statistically significant.

Vacancies by Age Group

A vacant slot in a home or center may not be open to children of all ages. The state limits the number of children that can be placed in a facility. For example, in centers one adult may care for only four infants, seven toddlers, 10 preschoolers, or 15 school-age children. Therefore, while some providers may not have sufficient staff to meet adult-to-child ratios for infants, they may have vacancies for older children.

The percentages of licensed facilities with any vacancies are shown in Tables 11 and 12. (As mentioned earlier, the regional differences in these percentages were statistically significant.) Also shown are the percentages of facilities with vacancies for selected age-groups. For example, 39% of homes had any vacancies, but only 18% had vacancies for infants or toddlers. The only significant regional differences in the share of facilities with vacancies for selected age-groups was among centers with vacancies for school-age children. Here Region-6 had a much lower share of centers with vacancies for school-age children than any other region.

Table 11. Percent of Family Homes with Vacancies: by Region and Age Group

	Any	Infants or
Region*	Children	Toddlers
1	40%	19%
2	36%	14%
3	39%	18%
4	40%	18%
5	34%	15%
6	43%	18%
Statewide	39%	18%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Family Homes

*Difference between regions not statistically significant.

Table 12. Percent of Centers with Vacancies: by Region and Age Group

Region	Any Children	Infants	Toddlers	Pre-Schoolers	School-Agers
1	58%	11%	29%	43%	31%
2	51%	12%	22%	38%	44%
3	69%	16%	35%	49%	37%
4	69%	17%	32%	48%	32%
5	69%	17%	34%	54%	39%
6	59%	14%	34%	44%	19%*
Statewide	64%	15%	32%	47%	34%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers

*Significantly different with 99.9% confidence.

Availability of Child Care

A convenient statistic for comparing availability of licensed care among different areas is a ratio of availability to potential demand -- the number of licensed slots per 100 children. In 1994 1,050,458 children under the age of 13 lived in Washington State. The total licensed capacity of centers and homes was 139,988. So there were 13 licensed slots in the state for every 100 children under 13 years old.

Among the DSHS regions, availability ranged from 10 slots per 100 children in Region-6 to 16 slots per 100 children in Region-4 (Table 13). Availability varied even more widely among counties--from one slot per 100 children in Columbia, Garfield, and Pend Oreille to 19 slots per 100 in Yakima. (See Appendix A for tables and Appendix B for maps.) Differences in availability among regions or counties can be due to many factors, among them are differences in profitability, in how much parents value licensed child care, the availability of safe alternatives to licensed care, or the state's ability to recruit or license providers.

Table 13. Relative Availability of Child Care

Region	Children 0-12yo [1]	Licensed Slots [2]	Slots per 100 Children
1	140,577	18,476	13
2	105,378	15,726	15
3	171,775	21,612	13
4	276,702	45,655	16
5	181,576	20,673	11
6	174,450	17,848	10
Total	1,050,458	139,988	13

[1] OFM estimates of 1994 populations.
[2] Licensed capacity from 1994 surveys of child care centers and family homes.

Regions differ significantly with 95% confidence.

Age Differences of Children in Licensed Care

Whether or not children were in licensed care depended strongly on the age of the child. At the time of the 1994 survey, 160,000 children were receiving licensed child care. As shown in Table 14, 47% of all children in licensed care were preschoolers, yet preschoolers were only 28% of all children under the age of 13. In contrast, 32% of all children in licensed care were school-age, while that group comprised 53% of all children under the age of 13.

Table 14. Children in Washington State Compared to Children in Licensed Care

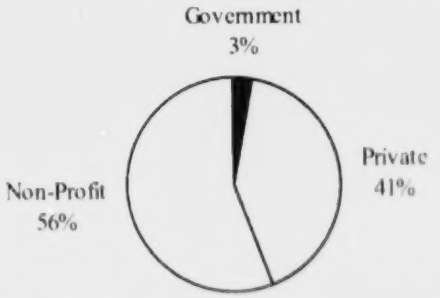
Age group	Percent of All Children [1]	Percent of Children in Child Care [2]
Infants	7%	4%
Toddlers	12%	16%
Preschool	28%	47%
Schoolage	53%	32%

[1] Based on OFM estimates of 1990 populations.
[2] From 1994 surveys of child care centers and family homes.

Types of Centers

Providers identified their centers in one of three ways: government operated, non-profit, or for-profit (Figure 12). Three percent of centers were government operated, 56% had non-profit status, and the remaining 41 percent operated as private, for-profit enterprises.

Figure 12. Types of Child Care Centers



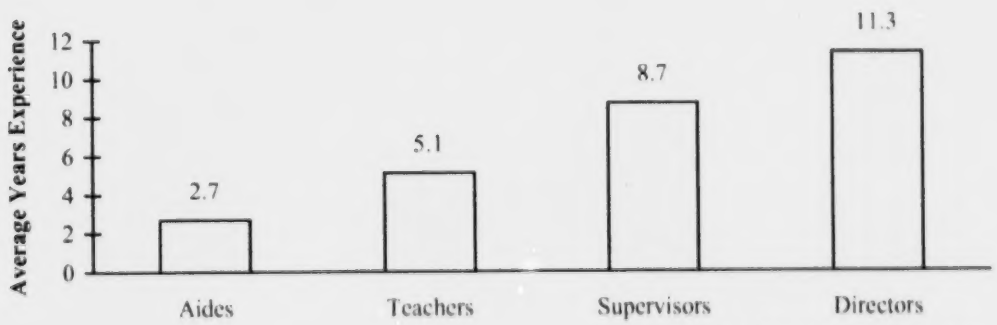
Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Staff Experience and Education

Years Experience: Center Staff

Respondents at centers described the child care experience of their staff: aides, teachers, program supervisors, and directors. The experience of these workers ranged from less than a year to over 50 years in paid child care. Experience varied with the type of position. Aides were the least experienced, 2.7 years. Directors, in comparison, averaged 11.3 years. Figure 13 shows the average number of years in paid child care employment for each position.

Figure 13. Average Paid Child Care Experience of Center Staff



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Non-Paid Staff at Centers

All centers employed paid staff; statewide, centers had an average of 10 employees. Some centers also get additional help from volunteers. Volunteers were present at 34% of the centers surveyed.

Table 15. Percent of Centers Using Volunteers and Number of Volunteers by Center Type

Type of Center	Using Volunteers	Number of Volunteers*
Private	24%	2.4
Non-profit	41%	4.1
Government	62%	11.1
All Centers	34%	4.0

*Average of centers using volunteers.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

As shown in Table 15, the use of volunteers varied considerably by type of center. Private centers were the least likely (24%) to use them, while 41% of non-profit and 62% of government-run centers used volunteers. The number of volunteers on site also varied according to the type of center; of the centers with at least one volunteer, private centers averaged 2.4 volunteers, non-profits 4.1, and government-run centers 11.1.

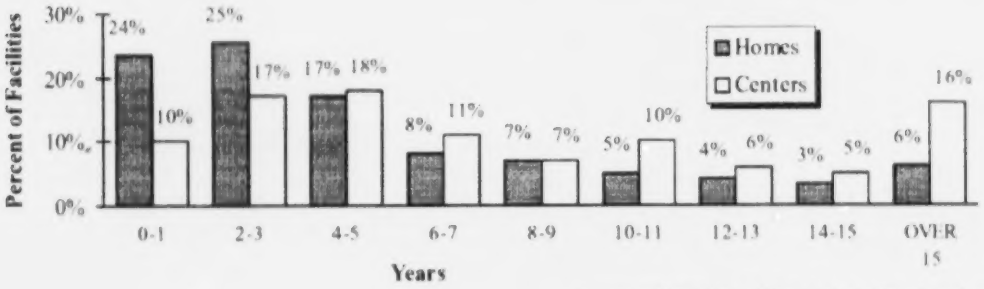
Years in Operation

Homes and Centers

The average family home had been in operation five-and-a-half years. When family home providers were asked how long they had been in operation, they reported from less than one year's experience to 50 years. Nearly half of family homes had been in operation for less than four years. The percentages of family homes, by years of operation, are shown in Figure 14.

Centers, on the other hand, had been in operation 8.8 years on average. They reported being in operation between 0 and 83 years; half of the centers had been in operation for 6 years or more. Figure 14 also shows the percent of centers, by years of operation.

Figure 14. Years of Experience: Homes and Centers

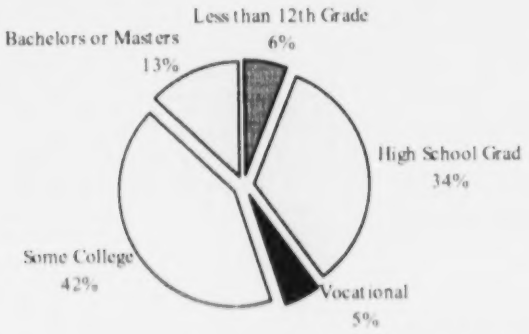


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Family Home Providers' Education and Training

Almost all, (94%) of family home child care providers completed high school. Nearly half have earned some college credit or have vocational training and 13% have a bachelor's or better (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Family Home Providers' Highest Level of Education

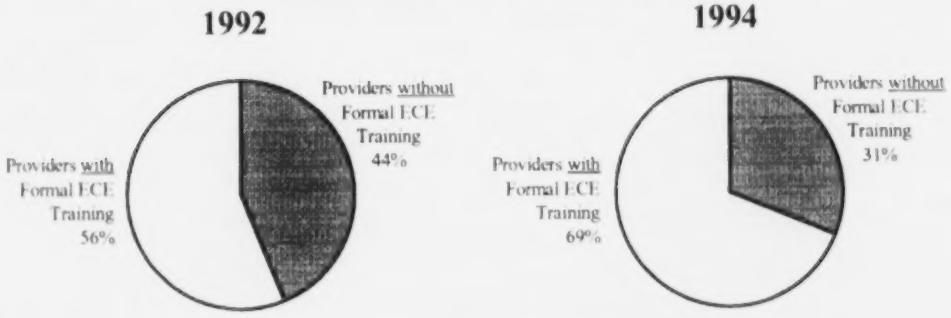


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Many licensed child care providers have access to early childhood education (ECE) training through local colleges, referral agencies, or through associations for child care professionals. Almost 70% of family home providers indicated that they had formal ECE training (Figure 16, 1994).

Since 1992, the share of family home providers with ECE training has increased. In 1992, 56% of family providers had ECE training (Figure 16, 1992). By 1994, the percentage of providers with ECE training increased to 69%.

Figure 16. Training in Early Child Hood Education (ECE) in Family Homes: 1992 Compared to 1994


1992
Providers without Formal ECE Training 44%
Providers with Formal ECE Training 56%
1994
Providers without Formal ECE Training 31%
Providers with Formal ECE Training 69%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1992 and 1994 Surveys of Family Homes

Salaries and Benefits for Child Care Workers

Wages at Centers

The average wages or salaries of center staff -- aides, teachers, supervisors, and directors -- are shown in Table 16. Directors earned over $1,800 per month on average. Of the remaining staff, supervisors earned the most, followed by teachers, then aides. Centers in Region 4 (King County) offered the highest wages to employees.

Wages to center employees vary by region, but they also vary by the type of ownership, whether the center was a non-profit, government-run, or a private enterprise. Wages paid at each of these types of centers are shown in Table 17

Table 16. Average Wages in Child Care Centers by Region

Region	Centers	Aides	Teachers	Supervisors	Directors
1	213	$5.49	$6.17	$7.57	$1,743
2	151	$5.59	$6.29	$8.61	$1,763
3	264	$5.57	$6.63	$8.19	$1,844
4*	534	$6.27	$7.49	$9.70	$1,996
5	234	$5.37	$6.22	$7.83	$1,605
6	192	$5.48	$6.74	$8.15	$1,513
Statewide	1,588	$5.76/hr	$6.84/hr	$8.61/hr	$1,801/mo

*With 99.9% confidence, Region 4 had significantly higher wages than other regions.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers

Table 17. Wages in Child Care Centers by Type of Center

Type	Centers	Aides	Teachers	Supervisors	Directors
Government	49	$7.20	$9.99	$11.96	$2,401
Non-Profit	886	$5.81	$7.02	$8.71	$1,821
Private	653	$5.52	$6.53	$8.08	$1,722
Statewide	1,588	$5.76/hr	$6.84/hr	$8.61/hr	$1,801/mo

*With 99.9% confidence, salaries differed significantly by type of center.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers

Wages in Family Homes

Most family homes are one-person operations. About 20% of homes, however, employ at least one paid assistant. These assistants work about 24 hours each week on average. Their average hourly wage is similar to wages earned by aides in centers (Table 18).

Table 18. Assistant Wages in Licensed Family Homes

Region	Total Homes	Homes with Assistants	Average Wage
1	1,276	212	$5.00
2	1,095	178	$4.70
3	1,378	189	$5.70
4*	2,056	543	$6.10
5	1,104	285	$5.50
6	1,398	215	$5.00
Statewide	8,309	1,622	$5.50

*With 99.9% confidence, Region-4 wages were significantly higher.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Income of Family Homes

One third of family home providers reported that child care earnings were their primary source of income. The salary of an owner-operator of child care family home is whatever remains of their income after costs. Not enough data were collected to estimate the cost of operating a family home, but half of the homes surveyed reported $13,000 or more in gross income for 1993 and an average of $16,400. Annual earnings by region are shown in Table 19.

Table 19. Average Gross Annual Earnings in Family Homes: 1993

Region	Average Earnings
1	$13,800
2	$14,000
3	$15,000
4*	$21,300
5	$16,900
6	$14,600
Statewide	$16,400

*Signifigantly higher earnings, with 99.9% confidence.

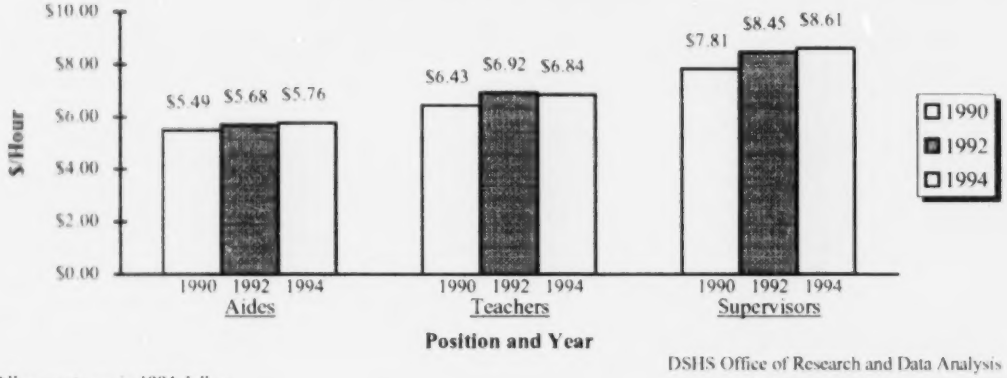
DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Wage Trends in Centers

Child care workers receive relatively low wages: center aides, teachers, and supervisors averaged $5.76, $6.84, and $8.61 per hour in 1994. At that time, average hourly wages were $9.23 in the wholesale-retail trades, $13.99 in manufacturing, and $18.58 in construction (Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch).

Average real wages for child care workers -- wages adjusted to account for changing costs of living -- have increased since 1990. Since 1992, however, average hourly wages for center employees have grown very slowly or not at all. In fact, after adjusting for inflation, the average wage rate for teachers declined (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Changes in Child Care Wages from 1990 to 1994 Adjusted for Inflation*



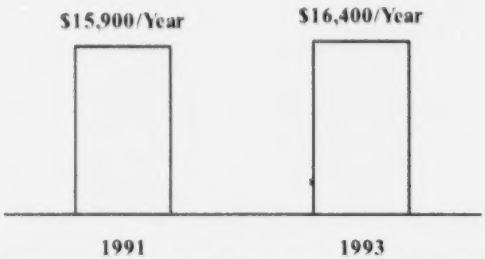
*All amounts are in 1994 dollars.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Wage Trends in Family Homes

Wage rates for assistants in family homes were not available from the 1990 survey. Between 1992 and 1994, however, the average hourly real wage of assistants in family homes increased nearly five percent from $5.25 to $5.50. This increase is slightly higher than the change in average annual earnings of family homes reported for 1991 and 1993 (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Average Gross Earnings in Family Homes: 91-93 Adjusted for Inflation



*All amounts are in 1993 dollars.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1992 and 1994 Surveys of Family Homes

Employee Benefits at Centers

State-wide, 77% of centers included some benefits in addition to their employees' salaries. The percents of centers providing any benefits, sick leave, vacation, or health insurance are shown in Table 20. Centers in Region-4 were the most likely to offer benefits of any kind. Centers in Region-1 were the least likely to provide their employees sick leave, paid vacation, or health insurance.

Table 20. Centers Providing Benefits by Type of Benefit and Region

Region	Total Centers	Any Benefits*	Paid Sick Leave*	Paid Vacation*	Health Insurance
1	213	63%	44%	56%	43%
2	151	64%	48%	61%	46%
3	264	76%	60%	70%	52%
4	534	86%	75%	81%	65%
5	234	78%	56%	70%	51%
6	192	78%	49%	57%	60%
State Wide	1,588	77%	60%	69%	56%

*With 99.9% confidence, significant difference between regions.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

The most striking differences in percentages of centers providing benefits are apparent when comparing government-run, non-profit, and private centers (Table 21). The difference is especially noticeable with respect to health insurance; 86% of government-run centers provide employees health insurance while 44% of private centers do the same. Non-profit centers fall between these two extremes in every category.

Table 21. Centers Providing Benefits by Type of Benefit and Center

Region	Total Centers	Any Benefits	Paid Sick Leave	Paid Vacation	Health Insurance
Government	49	92%	84%	72%	86%
Non-Profit	886	80%	66%	71%	63%
Private	653	73%	50%	68%	44%
Statewide	1,588	77%	60%	70%	56%

With 99.9% confidence, differences between types of centers are significant.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Since 1990, when centers were first surveyed about employee compensation, centers have become more inclined to provide benefits beyond a base salary. Table 22 shows how the percentages of centers offering benefits have changed over time.

The level of wages and benefits offered by centers are related. Centers that provide benefits also pay higher wages. Table 23 shows how wages at centers that provide health insurance are higher than the wages paid by centers that do not provide medical coverage.

Table 22. Centers Providing Employee Benefits 1990-1994

Year	Paid Sick Leave	Paid Vacation	Health Insurance
1990	56%	63%	45%
1992	61%	69%	51%
1994	60%	70%	56%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1990, 1992, and 1994 Surveys of Child Care Centers

Table 23. Health Insurance and Higher Wages in Centers

Position	Wages with Health Insurance	Wages without Health Insurance
Aides	$5.96/hr	$5.41/hr
Teachers	$7.12/hr	$6.39/hr
Supervisors	$9.14/hr	$7.88/hr
Directors	$1,908/mo	$1,629/mo

Health Insurance for Family Home Providers

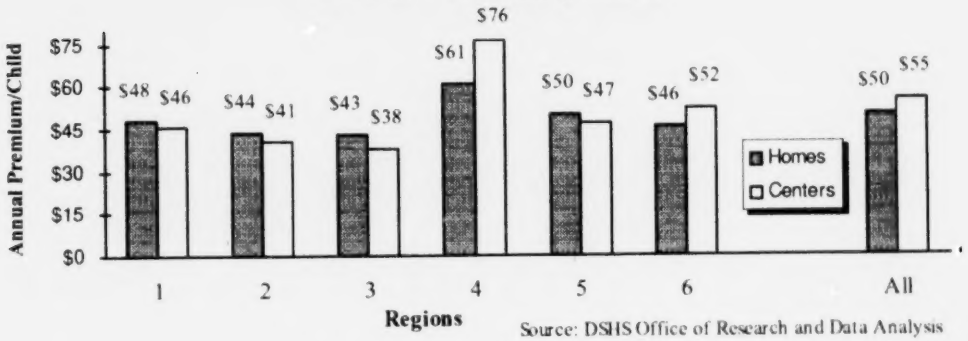
The majority, 84 percent, of family home providers reported having medical coverage. Among those providers with health insurance, 70 percent were covered through their spouse's employer , 22 percent purchased insurance for themselves, four percent were in the state's Basic Health Plan, two percent received Medicare or Medicaid, and two percent had some other source of coverage.

Liability Insurance

Almost all (95%) centers but less than 60% of homes had liability insurance for their business. The average annual cost-per-child of this insurance is reported in Figure 19. Half of the home providers who did not have liability insurance felt that they needed it and most cited cost or availability as reasons they were uninsured.

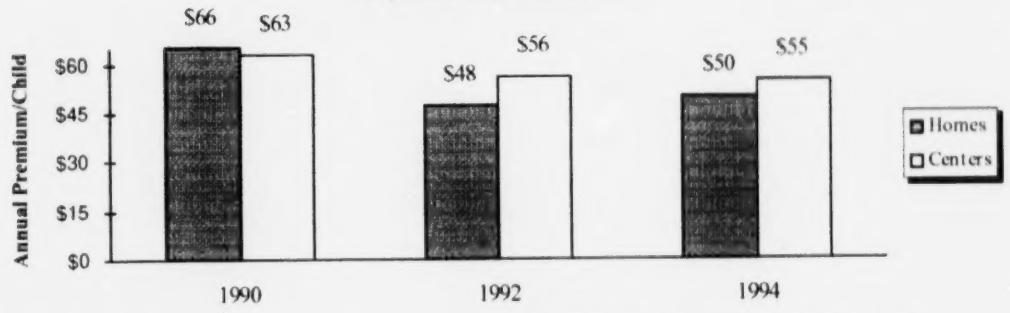
In 1994, the average cost of liability insurance (adjusted for inflation) was less than it was in 1990 and about equal to costs in 1992. These costs are reported in constant 1994 dollars in Figure 20.

Figure 19. Average Annual Cost of Liability Insurance per Child in Centers and Family Homes



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

Figure 20. Changing Cost of Liability Insurance per Child Adjusted for Inflation*



*All amounts are in 1994 dollars.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Family Homes

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Other Expenses in Centers

Center respondents were asked about their monthly rent (or mortgage) and utility expenses, but many could not answer these questions; 25% did not know how much was spent on rent and 35% did not know how much they paid for utilities. (Respondents were not necessarily the owner or someone familiar with the finances of their center.) Half of the centers for which these data were available, reported monthly rent expenses over $1,000 per month. More than half of those reporting, paid over $300 per month for utilities.

It is often mentioned that non-profit and government centers have a cost advantage because they are less likely to have rent and utilities expenses. This statement is supported by the data from the survey. Private centers were most likely to report rent and utilities expenses with 96% of them reporting expenses greater than zero. Non-profits reported these expenses 75% of the time. Only 10% of government centers reported any rent or utilities expenses.

Non-DSHS Financial Support of Centers

Thirty-five percent of centers received financial support from sources other than DSHS. Assistance in the form of cash grants, rent discounts, or help with other operating expenses usually came from religious organizations, schools, or programs such as the United Way. Fifty-four percent of non-profit and 62 percent of government-run centers received such assistance. Only eight percent of private centers received outside assistance.

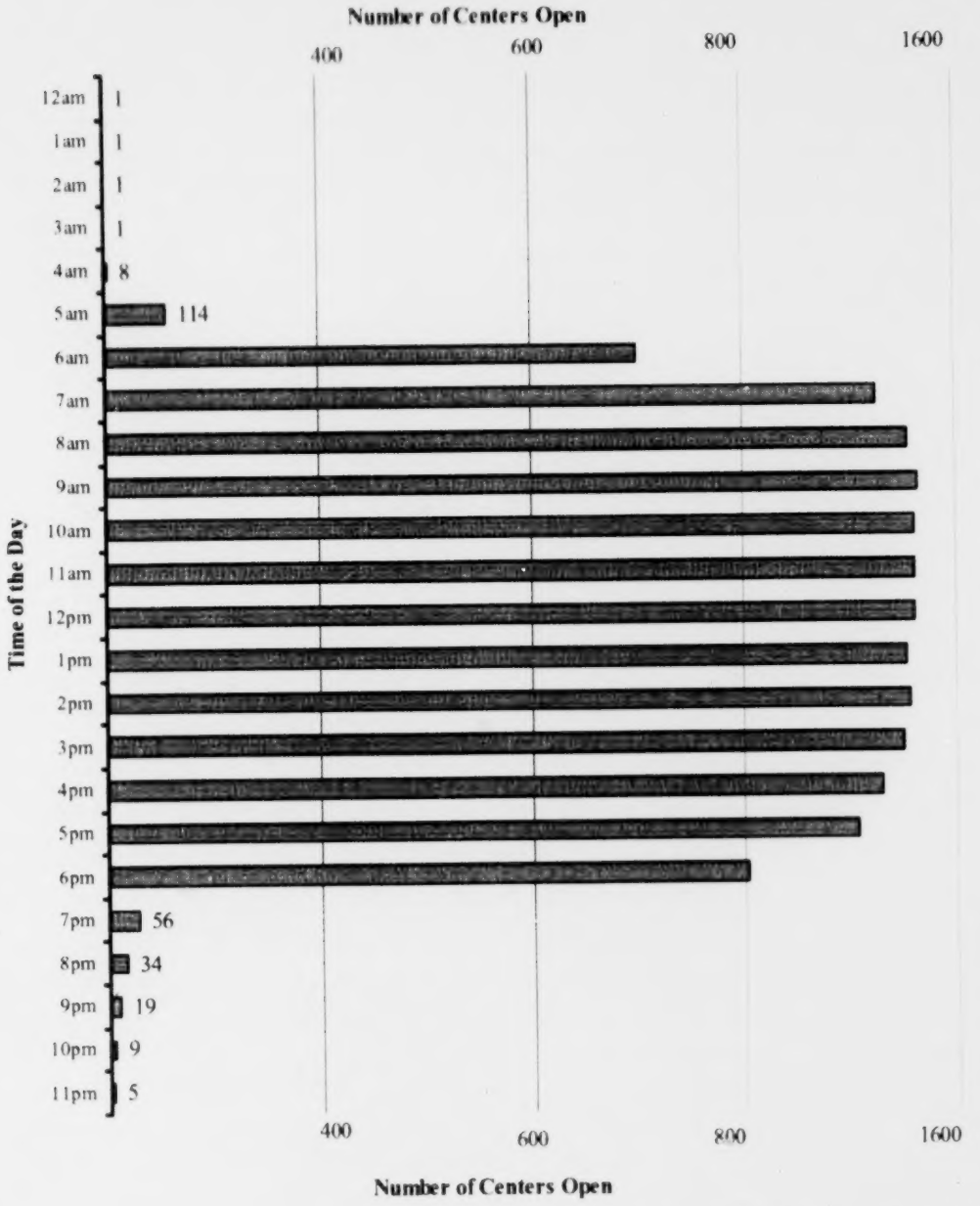
Other financial assistance was available in the form of grants to individual children. Thirty-seven percent of centers reported caring for children who received non-DSHS grants. This was true regardless of the type of center: government-run, private, or non-profit. Because of subsidy programs sponsored by the City of Seattle and King County, centers in Region-4 were significantly more likely to care for children receiving such grants. Forty-five percent of centers in Region-4 cared for children receiving non-DSHS subsidies.

Hours of Operation

Most licensed child care is available only during the daytime and weekdays. Child care providers were asked about their standard hours of operation. Nearly all centers operated Monday through Friday, but only one percent were open on weekends. Similarly, most family homes operated only during the weekdays, though slightly more, four percent, were open on weekends.

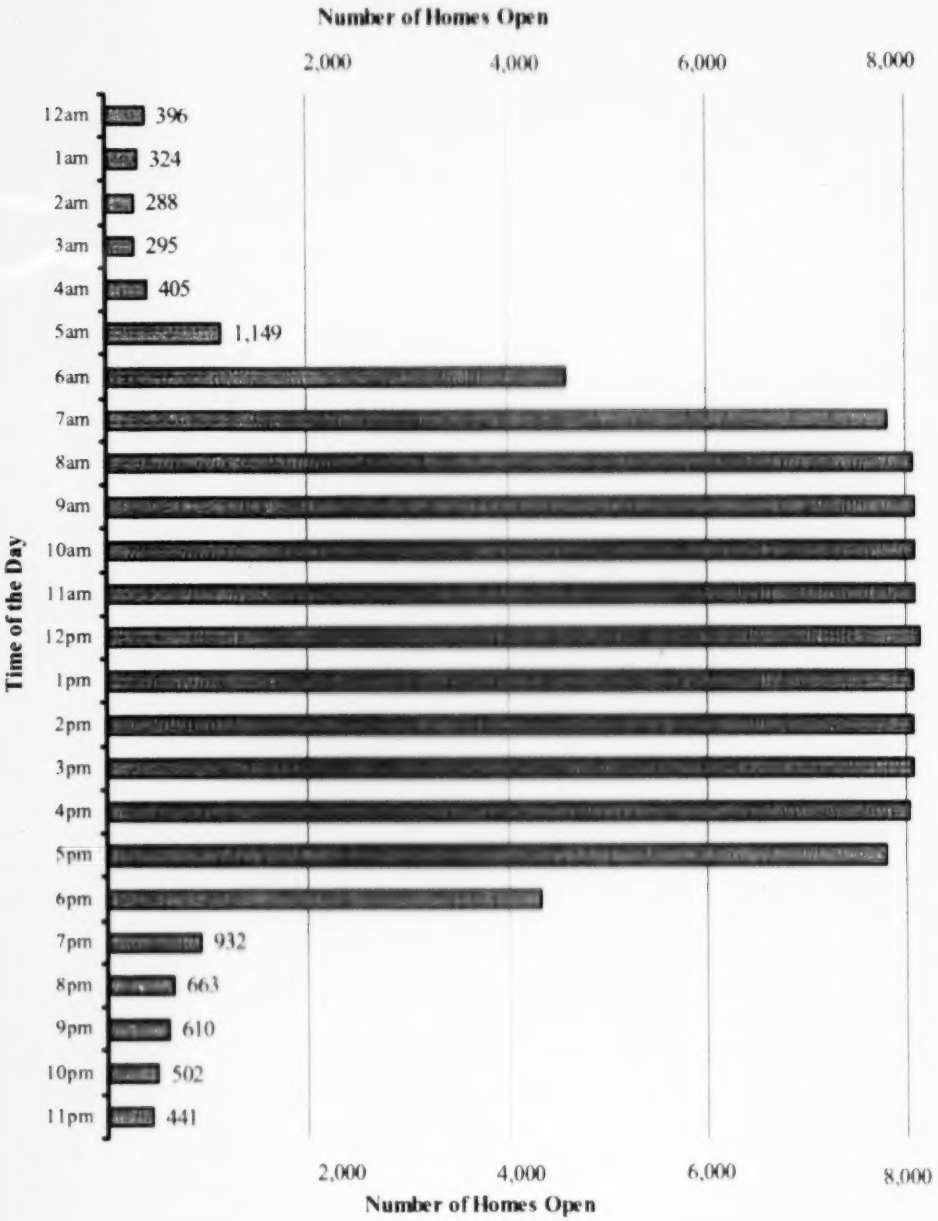
Standard hours of operation are predominately from 6:00AM to 6:00PM, with very few centers or homes providing care in the evening or night-time hours. Figure 21 and Figure 22 show how many centers and homes were open at any particular time.

Figure 21. Centers Open at Different Times of the Day: Monday Through Friday



DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Figure 22. Homes Open at Different Times of the Day: Monday Through Friday



DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

CHAPTER 5. CHILD CARE RATES

Child Care Rate Structure

DSHS maximum child care rates vary according to a number of factors: the age of the child; whether the child is in full- or part-time care; and whether the care is provided in a child care center, in a licensed family child care home, or in the child's or a relative's home. Because child care prices may vary from place to place, DSHS also sets its maximum rates according to the prices seen in regional child care markets:

Rate Clusters

Previously DSHS represented the regional child care markets with four geographic rate clusters (Appendix C). As discussed in Chapter 1, the Department now uses its six administrative regions to represent local child care markets (Figure 1). The previous rate clusters were developed so that DSHS maximum rates would accurately represent local child care markets. After the 1994 survey, however, it was clear that the four-clusters no longer reflected local markets. Instead of developing a new clustering of counties -- an arrangement destined for obsolescence -- the six DSHS Regions were selected as the permanent geographical basis for setting child care rates. The Regions are stable, well recognized, permit reasonable estimates of local market rates, and protect providers from the large reductions in their maximum rates that may be a consequence of reclustering.

Maximum Rates

DSHS maximum rates are the most the Department will pay to a provider for a given child care rate category. Providers charge DSHS their customary rate or the DSHS maximum rate, whichever is less. The DSHS maximum is set at the 75-percentile of the market which ensures that parents in search of subsidized child care should be able to afford access to 75% of the child care *providers* in their area. Previously, the DSHS maximum was set to ensure parents' access to 75 percent of their area's child care *slots*.

Rates According to 1994 Survey

The 75th-percentile rates observed in the 1994 surveys are the bold number shown in Tables 24 through 27. Beginning in December, 1995, these became the maximum amounts DSHS will pay for any given category of child care. For example, in Region 1, DSHS will pay no more than $400 a month for full-time infant care in a child care center. Hourly rates are shown for part-time care. Full-Time rates are shown as monthly, but may be converted into daily rates by dividing by 22. In Tables 24-27, observed rates are displayed for the 5th, 10th, 50th, 75th, 90th, and 95th percentiles of each category of care. Percentile rates are the rates below which a specified percentage (5, 10, 50,...) of observed rates fall. For example, the 75th percentile is the rate below which 75 percent of providers offered care in a given rate category.

Table 24. Monthly Full-Time(1) Rates in Child Care Centers

(DSHS maximum rates are in bold)

Infant: Under 12 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$240	$270	$280	$450	$315	$300
10th	$250	$280	$372	$480	$357	$340
50th	$357	$380	$500	$594	$445	$475
75th	**$400**	**$435**	**$544**	**$700**	**$495**	**$504**
90th	$464	$472	$576	$755	$550	$550
95th	$475	$480	$624	$850	$625	$600

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$210	$240	$280	$350	$275	$246
10th	$247	$244	$332	$388	$295	$295
50th	$315	$312	$400	$478	$365	$380
75th	**$357**	**$370**	**$452**	**$546**	**$404**	**$410**
90th	$396	$396	$475	$650	$450	$470
95th	$400	$412	$484	$725	$488	$500

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$200	$240	$250	$310	$225	$240
10th	$234	$240	$290	$340	$265	$246
50th	$288	$285	$360	$415	$330	$330
75th	**$325**	**$330**	**$394**	**$470**	**$360**	**$360**
90th	$350	$344	$407	$535	$396	$400
95th	$375	$360	$420	$611	$475	$440

Schoolage: Five Years and Older

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$165	$140	$160	$204	$234	$235
10th	$195	$200	$215	$291	$250	$240
50th	$280	$250	$330	$387	$315	$301
75th	**$315**	**$302**	**$374**	**$436**	**$348**	**$346**
90th	$340	$320	$400	$495	$384	$371
95th	$360	$338	$416	$540	$411	$381

(1) 30 or more hours per week. For daily rates, divide by 22.

(2) Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 25. Hourly Part-Time(1) Rates in Child Care Centers

(DSHS maximum rates are in bold)

Infant: Under 12 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.75	$2.00	$1.00	$3.00	$2.30	$2.35
10th	$2.00	$2.20	$2.00	$3.17	$3.00	$2.50
50th	$2.75	$2.50	$3.25	$4.50	$4.50	$4.25
75th	**$3.20**	**$3.50**	**$4.30**	**$5.00**	**$5.00**	**$4.75**
90th	$3.55	$6.50	$5.00	$6.00	$5.50	$5.50
95th	$3.75	$8.50	$6.00	$6.40	$5.50	$6.50

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.75	$1.60	$1.50	$2.50	$2.00	$1.75
10th	$1.75	$1.75	$2.00	$3.00	$2.25	$1.75
50th	$2.50	$2.45	$3.00	$4.00	$3.00	$2.85
75th	**$3.00**	**$2.80**	**$3.64**	**$4.50**	**$4.00**	**$3.50**
90th	$3.50	$3.50	$4.35	$5.00	$4.50	$4.50
95th	$3.50	$5.50	$4.80	$5.50	$4.80	$5.00

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.50	$1.75	$1.50	$2.00	$1.80	$1.60
10th	$1.75	$1.75	$1.75	$2.50	$2.05	$1.75
50th	$2.25	$2.50	$2.58	$3.50	$3.00	$2.50
75th	**$2.75**	**$2.75**	**$3.25**	**$4.00**	**$3.50**	**$3.00**
90th	$3.00	$3.00	$4.00	$5.00	$4.00	$4.00
95th	$3.15	$3.00	$4.00	$5.50	$5.00	$4.25

Schoolage: Five Years and Older

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.60	$1.50	$1.00	$1.80	$1.65	$1.75
10th	$1.72	$1.60	$1.53	$2.35	$2.00	$1.75
50th	$2.25	$2.45	$2.33	$3.25	$3.00	$2.23
75th	**$2.85**	**$2.75**	**$3.00**	**$4.00**	**$3.23**	**$3.00**
90th	$3.00	$3.00	$4.00	$5.00	$4.00	$3.50
95th	$3.00	$5.00	$4.00	$5.55	$4.13	$4.50

(1) Less than 30 hours per week.

(2) Percentile: The percent of centers at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Table 26. Monthly Full-Time(1) Rates in Family Home Child Care

(DSHS maximum rates are in bold)

Infant: Under 12 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$215	$172	$280	$344	$219	$219
10th	$227	$206	$310	$366	$258	$258
50th	$323	$280	$430	$452	$323	$323
75th	**$366**	**$323**	**$430**	**$559**	**$383**	**$387**
90th	$430	$389	$538	$645	$430	$430
95th	$516	$430	$538	$688	$430	$473

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$194	$201	$252	$280	$226	$194
10th	$206	$215	$258	$323	$258	$219
50th	$284	$290	$357	$430	$323	$323
75th	**$323**	**$323**	**$409**	**$538**	**$387**	**$344**
90th	$378	$374	$430	$581	$430	$398
95th	$430	$409	$473	$645	$469	$430

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$183	$194	$240	$292	$194	$194
10th	$215	$211	$258	$310	$226	$215
50th	$280	$258	$323	$387	$297	$289
75th	**$310**	**$290**	**$381**	**$430**	**$323**	**$323**
90th	$344	$315	$409	$516	$377	$374
95th	$378	$323	$430	$538	$421	$404

Schoolage: Five Years and Older

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$162	$129	$185	$258	$194	$168
10th	$172	$155	$215	$275	$206	$194
50th	$258	$258	$310	$355	$280	$271
75th	**$285**	**$294**	**$344**	**$409**	**$323**	**$307**
90th	$323	$312	$396	$452	$348	$348
95th	$344	$323	$430	$482	$387	$374

(1) 30 or more hours per week. For daily rates, divide by 22.

(2) Percentile: The percent of homes at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Table 27. Hourly Part-Time(1) Rates in Family Home Child Care

(DSHS maximum rates are in bold)

Infant: Under 12 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.50	$1.25	$1.41	$1.74	$1.60	$1.50
10th	$1.50	$1.33	$1.50	$2.19	$1.60	$1.50
50th	$1.85	$1.75	$2.50	$3.20	$2.50	$2.00
75th	**$2.64**	**$2.13**	**$3.00**	**$4.17**	**$3.13**	**$2.86**
90th	$5.00	$3.00	$7.50	$4.62	$8.33	$3.33
95th	$5.00	$3.78	$7.56	$5.69	$9.09	$3.33

Toddler: 12 to 29 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.25	$1.19	$1.50	$1.63	$1.23	$1.20
10th	$1.48	$1.33	$1.72	$2.00	$1.33	$1.50
50th	$2.00	$1.74	$2.38	$3.00	$2.00	$2.00
75th	**$2.22**	**$2.41**	**$2.80**	**$3.41**	**$2.22**	**$2.50**
90th	$2.78	$2.92	$3.14	$3.79	$2.52	$3.00
95th	$3.13	$3.96	$3.33	$4.13	$3.24	$3.25

Preschooler: 30 to 59 Months Old

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.20	$1.11	$1.59	$1.75	$1.30	$1.20
10th	$1.25	$1.36	$1.67	$2.00	$1.47	$1.42
50th	$1.68	$1.75	$2.13	$2.78	$2.00	$2.00
75th	**$2.00**	**$2.00**	**$2.50**	**$3.00**	**$2.38**	**$2.40**
90th	$2.40	$2.50	$3.33	$3.63	$3.13	$2.67
95th	$2.50	$3.33	$3.50	$4.00	$3.33	$2.78

Schoolage: Five Years and Older

Percentile(2)	Region-1	Region-2	Region-3	Region-4	Region-5	Region-6
5th	$1.12	$1.11	$1.50	$1.56	$1.25	$1.00
10th	$1.23	$1.24	$1.78	$1.70	$1.33	$1.33
50th	$1.80	$1.88	$2.30	$2.73	$2.00	$2.00
75th	**$2.07**	**$2.26**	**$2.80**	**$3.00**	**$2.62**	**$2.52**
90th	$2.58	$3.00	$3.54	$3.83	$3.65	$3.19
95th	$2.86	$3.50	$4.00	$4.38	$4.00	$3.92

(1) Less than 30 hours per week.

(2) Percentile: The percent of homes at or below the rate shown.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Family Homes

Factors Associated with the Price of Child Care

As shown in the preceding tables, the cost of child care varies according to the age of the child, the time a child spends in care, and the location and type of care provided. The state sets its maximum child care rates according to those four factors.

Factors Apart from DSHS Rate Categories

Further analysis of the survey data revealed that there are other factors that are significantly associated with the cost of child care. For simplicity, only full-time rates for preschoolers were used in this analysis. Full-time preschool comprises the largest population in licensed child care, so the results of these analyses should indicate trends for the entire child care population.

There are many factors that could affect what homes and centers must charge to stay in operation. Facilities incur costs such as rent or mortgages, insurance, and employee salaries and benefits. There are other factors that may possibly affect the rates child care providers charge: Do they accept children with DSHS subsidies? Do they provide higher quality child care?

Findings

While there are individual cases that show otherwise, overall, child care rates varied significantly with four factors in centers: whether or not they (1) accept DSHS subsidized children, (2) provide employees paid sick leave, or (3) provide employees health insurance, and (4) the cost of their liability insurance. In homes, rates varied significantly with three factors: (1) the provider had a college degree, (2) child care was a primary source of income, and (3) the provider had ECE credits.

Table 28 shows how much child care rates varied according to these factors. Centers that accepted DSHS children charged $40 less per month on average than did centers that did not take DSHS children. Centers that provided employees with paid sick leave or health insurance also charged about $40 more per month than did centers that did not provide those benefits. Also in centers, higher rates were associated with higher liability insurance premiums.

In homes, the providers education and ECE experience were significant factors associated with rates. Providers with a two-year degree or higher were able to charge an average of $53 more per month than their less educated counterparts. Family home providers with ECE credits were able to charge $39 more per month than providers who had none.

Table 28. Factors Associated with Child Care Rates[1] in Washington State, 1994

Factors Significantly* Associated with Center Rates

Accept DSHS Subsidized Children	Average Monthly Rate for Full-Time Preschool
Yes	$347
No	$387
Provide Paid Sick Leave	
Yes	$379
No	$334
Provide Health Insurance	
Yes	$382
No	$343
Liability Insurance Premium ($/Child/Year)	
$0 to $24	$330
$25 to $49	$363
$50 to $74	$357
$75 to $99	$380
$100 and over	$401

Factors Significantly* Associated with Family Home Rates

College Degree[2]	Average Monthly Rate for Full-Time Preschool
Yes	$362
No	$309
Primary Source of Income	
Yes	$316
No	$329
Early Childhood Education	
Yes	$382
No	$343

* Significant differences with at least 95% confidence.

[1] Rates varied signifigantly only with the factors shown. (eg. Whether or not a home had liability insurance had no signifigant influence on the rates they charged for care.)
[2] Provider has associates degree or higher.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Other Charges and Payment Policies.

Center Registration Fees

Over 75 percent of centers charge a registration or enrollment fee in addition to their customary child care fees. Half of those centers require a registration fee only once. Another 47 percent charge once a year. The remaining three percent charge a registration fee two times or more each year. On average, centers charge $32 per child, regardless of how often they collect this fee.

Absence Policy

Providers sometimes charge for child care if a child scheduled for care was absent. Sixty percent of family home providers charged for such absences. In centers, 81 percent of providers charged when a child scheduled for full-time care was absent. If a child scheduled for part-time care was absent, 66 percent of centers still charged for care.

Child Care Price Increases

There are 96 different categories for DSHS licensed child care and the categories may change from year to year, both making comparisons between years difficult. Changes in average prices, however, are accurate estimates of the overall changes in child care prices through time (assuming the average ages of children and their time in care are the same each year).

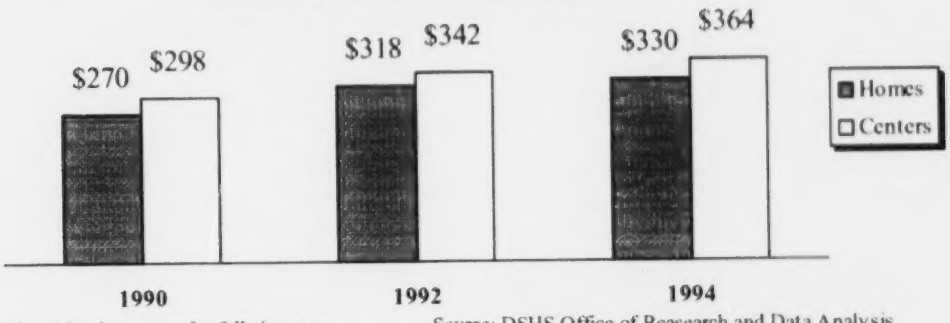
Nominal Increase

Figure 23 shows the average prices for a month of full-time care in centers and in homes as estimated from the 1990, 1992, and 1994 rate studies. From 1990 to 1994, average monthly prices paid for full-time licensed child care in both centers and family homes increased 22%.

Inflation Adjusted Increase

Any comparisons over time must take in to account the general level of inflation; in other words, the real price. While the price of child care increased 22% from 1990 to 1994, inflation as measured by the national Consumer Price Index (US CPI) rose just over 13%. Figure 24 shows average real prices for full-time licensed child care after adjusting for inflation. Though real prices have increased since 1990, the real price of full-time family home care fell between the years 1992 and 1994 (from $336 to $330).

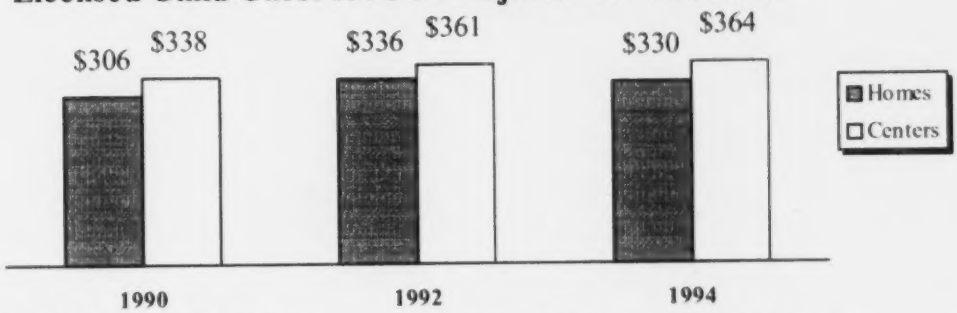
Figure 23. Average Monthly Prices* for Full-Time Licensed Child Care: 1990-94



*Child weighted averages for full-time care.

Source: DSHS Office of Reasearch and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Centers and Family Homes

Figure 24. Average Monthly Prices* for Full-Time Licensed Child Care: 1990-94 Adjusted for Inflation**



*Child weighted averages for full-time care.
**1994 dollars.

Source: DSHS Office of Reasearch and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Centers and Family Homes

CHAPTER 6. DSHS-SUBSIDIZED CHILDREN

In 1994, DSHS paid for child care for an average of 35,000 children per month. Most of the families receiving child care have low incomes and need the subsidy so that they may work, go to school, or in other ways prepare for work. In Fiscal Year 1994, the Department paid a total of $91 million to child care providers.

Where Subsidized Children Receive Care

Licensed Child Care Facilities

Of all children in licensed child care facilities, 15 percent were subsidized by DSHS. In Spring 1994, family home providers reported caring for 9,200 DSHS-subsidized children; this was 16% of all children in family-home child care (Table 29). In centers, the 14,700 DSHS-subsidized children represented 14 percent of all children in center care.

Table 29. DSHS Children in Centers and Family Homes

	Centers	Family Homes	All Licensed Facilities
DSHS Children Estimated Total	14,700	9,200	23,900
As percent all children	14%	16%	15%
Number of Facilities with DSHS children	1,205	3,411	4,616
As percent all facilities	76%	41%	47%

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Surveys of Centers and Homes

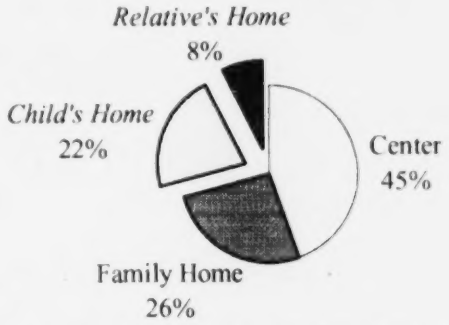
Three quarters of Washington child care centers said they cared for DSHS subsidized children. A smaller proportion, 41 percent, of family homes said they cared for DSHS-subsidized children. This meant that DSHS children were more widely distributed among centers but more concentrated in family homes.

Among those centers serving DSHS-subsidized children, such children represented 22 percent of the center population. In homes serving DSHS-subsidized children, children with DSHS subsidies constituted an average of 35 percent of children in home care.

Unlicensed Child Care

DSHS also subsidizes unlicensed child care when such care is legal, that is, care in the child's home and care in a relative's home. Unlicensed (care legally exempt from licensing) care accounts for about 30 percent of all subsidized children (Figure 25). Thus, as the time of the survey, about 10,200 children received unregulated care (Social Service Payment System, unpublished).

Figure 25. Types of Child Care Used by DSHS Clients In March 94 (*Unlicensed Care in Italics)*

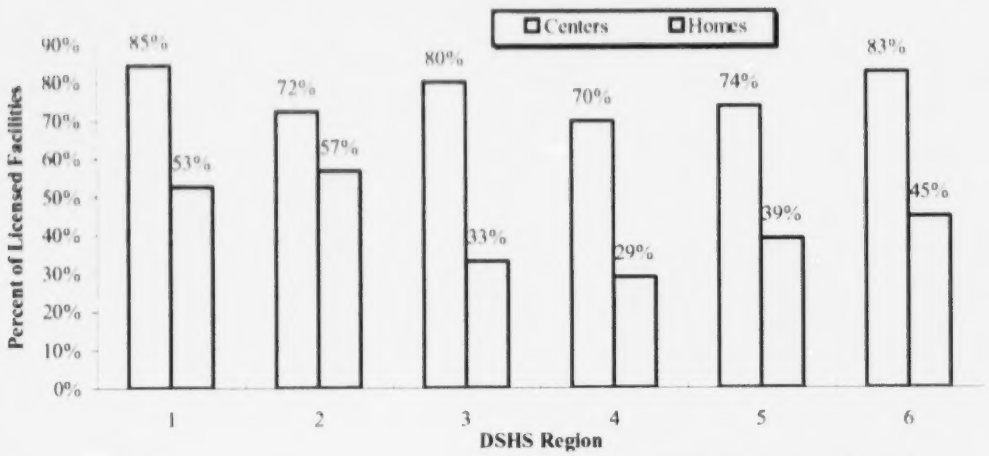


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
DSHS Social Service Payment System

Regional Variation

The proportions of licensed facilities serving DSHS-subsidized children varies across the state (Figure 26). The proportion of homes caring for subsidized children ranged from 29 percent in Region-4 to 57 percent in Region-2. For centers, similar but less dramatic variations were seen. The share of centers serving subsidized children ranged from 70 percent in Region-4 to 85 percent in Region-1.

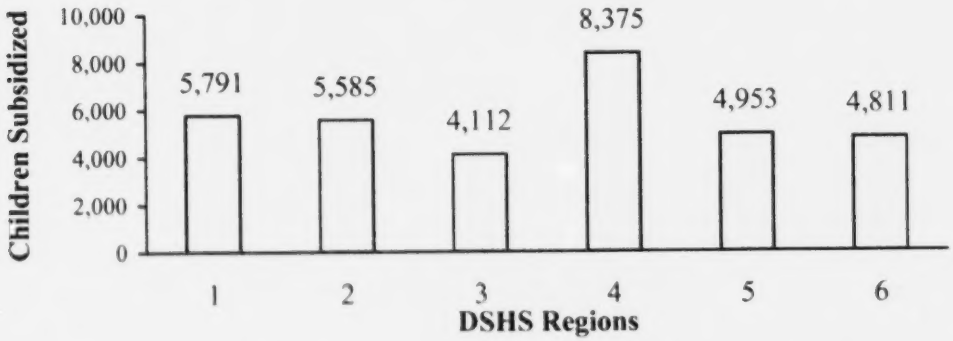
Figure 26. Facilities Serving DSHS-Subsidized Children



Source: DSHS Office of Resarch and Data Analysis
DSHS Social ServicesPayment System

Likewise, the numbers of DSHS-subsidized children differed among DSHS regions; the greatest number was served in Region-4 and the least served in Region-3 (Figure 27).

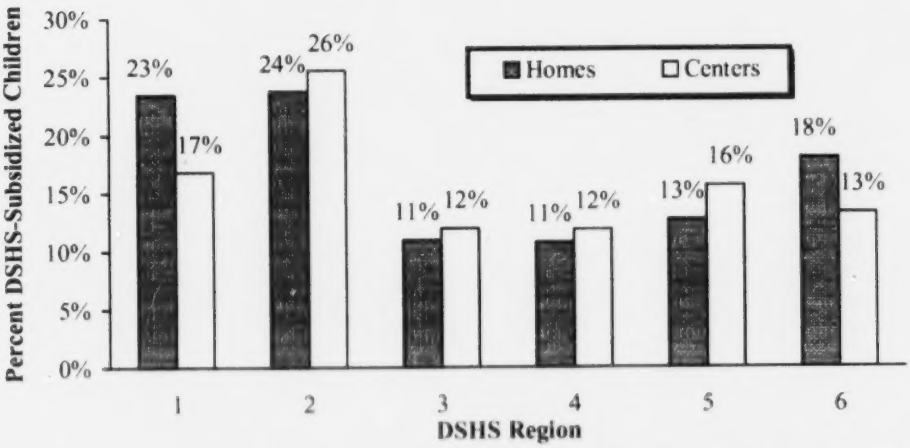
Figure 27. Children in DSHS-Subsidized Care



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
DSHS Social Services Payment System

When the DSHS child population is expressed as a percent of the total child care population, the picture is almost reversed. Region-2 had the highest proportion of DSHS children (26 percent) in its licensed child care facilities, and Region-4 had the lowest (11.5 percent; Figure 28).

Figure 28. DSHS-Subsidized Children As Percent All Children in Licensed Centers and Homes

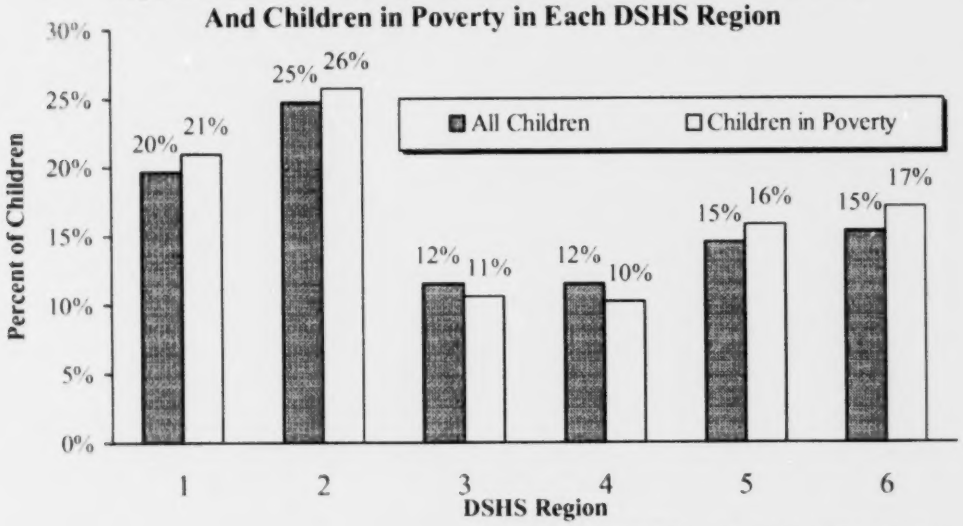


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
DSHS Social Services Payment System

Among regions, the proportion of the child care population that is subsidized by DSHS is closely related to the proportion of children (0 to 12 years) living below the poverty line in each region (Figure 29).

The majority of DSHS child care programs are designed to assist low income families. This close relationship between the child poverty rate and DSHS child care subsidies suggest a uniform rate of service across the state.

Figure 29. DSHS-Subsidized Children in Licensed Child Care And Children in Poverty in Each DSHS Region



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
DSHS Social ServicesPayment System

Who Serves DSHS-Subsidized Children?

Center Ownership

The likelihood of any center caring for DSHS-subsidized children varies depending on center ownership. Among those centers describing themselves as government-owned, 94 percent reported caring for subsidized children (Table 30). Seventy-nine percent of non-profit centers care for subsidized children. For-profit centers were the least likely to care for DSHS-subsidized children; yet, 70 percent of for-profits reported caring for at least one DSHS-subsidized child.

Table 30. Centers with DSHS-Subsidized Children by Type of Ownership

Type of Ownership	Total Centers	Percent with DSHS children
Non-Profit	883	79%
For Profit	652	70%
Government	50	94%
Statewide	1,585	76%

Source: DSHS, Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Limits on Subsidized Children

Of those centers that served DSHS families, 20 percent said they limited the enrollment of DSHS children; on average the limit was 13 children. The size of the limits depended on the DSHS region. This was especially true in Region-2 where DSHS children made up 26 percent of children in licensed care; there, the limit averaged 37 children, significantly higher than the other regions (Table 31).

Table 31. Centers Limiting Enrollment of DSHS Subsidized Children

DSHS Region	Number of Centers	Percent Caring for DSHS Children	Percent Limiting DSHS Children*	Average Limit on DSHS Children*
1	213	85%	7%	18
2	149	72%	18%	37
3	264	80%	12%	11
4	534	70%	31%	10
5	234	74%	19%	11
6	191	83%	19%	9
Statewide	1,585	76%	20%	13

*Of centers with DSHS-subsidized children.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers

Effects of DSHS Maximum Rates

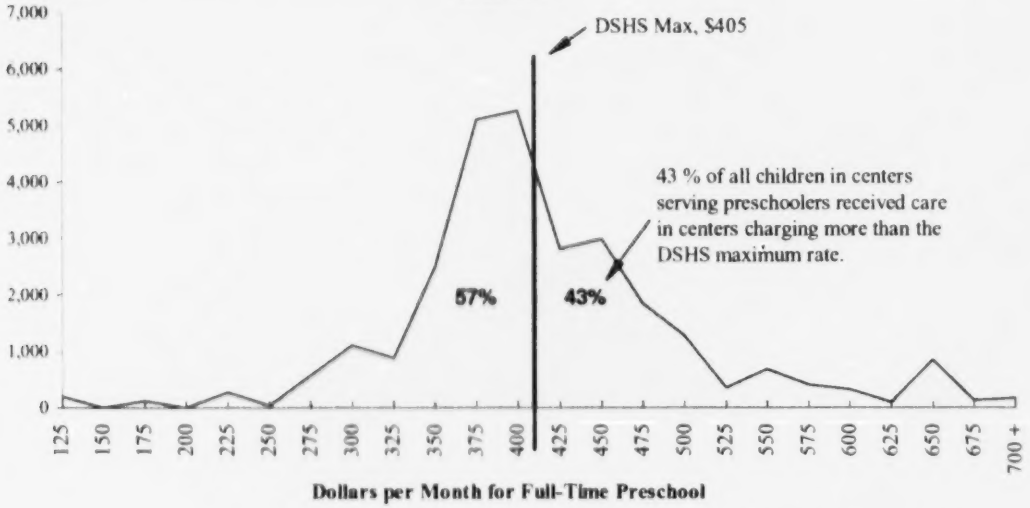
DSHS pays providers their usual and customary rates, up to a maximum rate. Every two years DSHS changes the maximum to reflect changes in market rates. In accordance with federal and state law, DSHS sets maximum rates for child care payments at the 75th percentile of local market rates. It is reasonable to assume that these limits on how much DSHS will pay for child care affect providers' decisions about accepting DSHS-subsidized children into their programs. If subsidies were too low, parents shopping for child care with a DSHS subsidy might be limited to the least expensive providers. However, in 1994, as in 1990 and in 1992, it appears that DSHS-subsidized children are accepted by a wide range of providers.

The following two figures illustrate that expensive providers were willing to care for DSHS children. For simplicity, we show only centers serving full-time preschool-age children in Region-4, but similar results can be seen with any age group and in homes as well as centers, in all regions.

In Figure 30, the child population in centers with preschool age children is plotted against the monthly charges for full-time preschool. The heavy line down the chart shows the DSHS maximum rate in Region-4. Overall, 43% of children were in centers where preschool-age charges exceeded the DSHS maximum at the time of the survey.

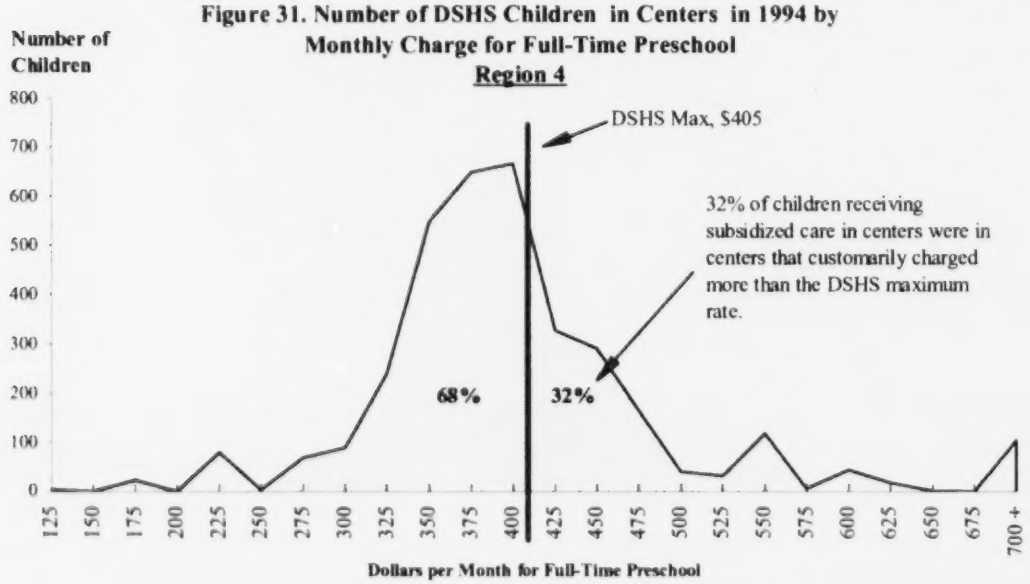
The distribution of DSHS children by monthly preschool rate can be seen in Figure 31. Of all DSHS children in centers offering full-time preschool care, 32 percent were in centers charging more than the DSHS maximum of $405 per month. Thus, while the maximum rate probably deters some more expensive providers from accepting children with DSHS subsidies, other factors must be part of providers' decisions.

Figure 30. Number of Children in Centers in 1994 by Monthly Charges for Full-time Preschool Care
Region 4



Source: DSHS Social Services Payment System

Figure 31. Number of DSHS Children in Centers in 1994 by Monthly Charge for Full-Time Preschool
Region 4



Source: DSHS Social ServicesPayment System

APPENDIX A

COUNTY-BY-COUNTY STATISTICAL TABLES

Table A1. Child Care Facilities and Slots

Table A2. Vacancies and Vacancy Rates

Table A3. Children in Licensed Child Care

Table A4. Children in Subsidized Child Care--All Care and Licensed Only

Table A5. Average Cost of Full-Time Preschool Care

Table Notes and Sources

Table A1. 1994 County-by-County Statistics: Facilities and Child Care Slots

Counties	Licensed Centers	Licensed Homes	Licensed Facilities	Slots in Centers [1]	Slots in Homes [2]	Licensed Slots
Adams	2	33	35	98	215	313
Asotin	7	8	15	396	54	450
Benton	33	291	324	1,893	1,672	3,565
Chelan	25	150	175	874	840	1,714
Clallam	15	57	72	631	311	943
Clark	59	663	722	3,699	3,286	6,986
Columbia	0	1	1	0	7	7
Cowlitz	12	79	91	735	387	1,122
Douglas	10	78	88	335	566	901
Ferry	2	1	3	40	3	43
Franklin	9	102	111	644	583	1,227
Garfield	0	1	1	0	6	6
Grant	9	200	209	358	1,086	1,444
Grays Har.	12	74	86	501	523	1,024
Island	15	70	85	525	387	912
Jefferson	3	12	15	195	63	258
King	534	2,068	2,602	32,586	11,952	44,538
Kitsap	53	334	387	3,346	1,912	5,258
Kittitas	8	33	41	304	190	494
Klickitat	0	34	34	0	192	192
Lewis	12	56	68	579	398	977
Lincoln	1	14	15	25	69	94
Mason	4	74	78	89	478	567
Okanogan	11	76	87	309	582	891
Pacific	3	14	17	21	85	106
Pend Oreille	0	4	4	0	15	15
Pierce	181	762	943	10,080	4,829	14,909
San Juan	5	15	20	58	77	135
Skagit	29	144	173	1,079	821	1,900
Skamania	3	10	13	75	14	89
Snohomish	164	1,006	1,170	9,693	5,410	15,103
Spokane	131	618	749	7,419	3,571	10,990
Stevens	6	45	51	206	442	648
Thurston	67	316	383	3,307	1,767	5,074
Wahkiakum	1	3	4	65	8	73
Walla Walla	12	53	65	518	271	789
Whatcom	51	137	188	2,243	790	3,033
Whitman	16	70	86	673	298	971
Yakima	80	599	679	5,280	3,523	8,803
State Total	1,585	8,305	9,890	88,879	47,683	136,564

Due to its higher level of detail, totals in this table may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in this report.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table A2. 1994 County-by-County Statistics: Vacancies and Vacancy Rates

Counties	Licensed Slots	Vacancies Centers	Homes	Total	Vacancy Rate [3]
Adams	313	26	45	71	23%
Asotin	450	70	7	77	17%
Benton	3,565	90	246	336	9%
Chelan	1,714	76	110	186	11%
Clallam	943	128	48	177	19%
Clark	6,986	359	648	1,007	14%
Columbia	7	0	0	0	0%
Cowlitz	1,122	23	79	102	9%
Douglas	901	23	139	161	18%
Ferry	43	0	0	0	0%
Franklin	1,227	78	77	154	13%
Garfield	6	0	0	0	0%
Grant	1,444	63	270	333	23%
Grays Har.	1,024	86	41	126	12%
Island	912	28	78	106	12%
Jefferson	258	30	5	35	14%
King	44,538	4,218	2,027	6,246	14%
Kitsap	5,258	474	319	792	15%
Kittitas	494	133	25	159	32%
Klickitat	192	0	55	55	29%
Lewis	977	24	24	48	5%
Lincoln	94	8	6	14	15%
Mason	567	11	138	149	26%
Okanogan	891	32	47	78	9%
Pacific	106	0	8	8	8%
Pend Oreille	15	0	4	4	27%
Pierce	14,909	1,286	637	1,923	13%
San Juan	135	22	15	37	27%
Skagit	1,900	202	139	340	18%
Skamania	89	14	10	24	27%
Snohomish	15,103	1,570	951	2,521	17%
Spokane	10,990	600	638	1,237	11%
Stevens	648	54	23	77	12%
Thurston	5,074	276	273	549	11%
Wahkiakum	73	12	0	12	16%
Walla Walla	789	31	32	63	8%
Whatcom	3,033	435	82	517	17%
Whitman	971	41	70	111	11%
Yakima	8,803	863	530	1,393	16%
State Total	136,564	11,382	7,844	19,226	14%

Due to its higher level of detail, totals in this table may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in this report.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table A3. 1994 County-by-County Statistics: Children in Licensed Child Care

Counties	All Children 0-12 YO [4]	Children in Licensed Care: Centers	Homes	Total	% of All [5] Children 0-12	Licensed Slots	Slots per 100 Children [6]
Adams	3,720	114	259	373	10%	313	8
Asotin	3,920	657	62	718	18%	450	11
Benton	28,577	2,162	2,037	4,199	15%	3,565	12
Chelan	11,812	1,046	1,110	2,156	18%	1,714	15
Clallam	11,313	986	476	1,462	13%	943	8
Clark	59,253	4,692	4,086	8,778	15%	6,986	12
Columbia	716	0	13	13	2%	7	1
Cowlitz	17,761	1,241	578	1,819	10%	1,122	6
Douglas	6,328	400	581	981	15%	901	14
Ferry	1,556	68	4	72	5%	43	3
Franklin	11,200	713	646	1,359	12%	1,227	11
Garfield	433	0	15	15	3%	6	1
Grant	14,628	416	1,510	1,926	13%	1,444	10
Grays Har.	13,537	813	688	1,501	11%	1,024	8
Island	13,752	759	465	1,224	9%	912	7
Jefferson	4,058	201	100	301	7%	258	6
King	276,702	37,867	14,500	52,367	19%	44,538	16
Kitsap	45,330	3,686	2,581	6,267	14%	5,258	12
Kittitas	4,697	573	229	802	17%	494	11
Klickitat	3,795	0	240	240	6%	192	5
Lewis	13,175	350	544	894	7%	977	7
Lincoln	1,789	67	143	210	12%	94	5
Mason	8,260	147	454	601	7%	567	7
Okanogan	7,688	245	801	1,046	14%	891	12
Pacific	3,537	51	148	199	6%	106	3
Pend Oreille	2,221	0	21	21	1%	15	1
Pierce	136,246	11,068	6,071	17,139	13%	14,909	11
San Juan	1,880	141	110	251	13%	135	7
Skagit	17,908	1,344	1,178	2,522	14%	1,900	11
Skamania	2,043	84	80	164	8%	89	4
Snohomish	110,973	10,884	7,058	17,942	16%	15,103	14
Spokane	77,555	8,327	4,261	12,588	16%	10,990	14
Stevens	7,837	482	529	1,011	13%	648	8
Thurston	37,079	3,671	2,463	6,135	17%	5,074	14
Wahkiakum	639	74	15	89	14%	73	11
Walla Walla	9,799	589	360	949	10%	789	8
Whatcom	27,263	2,041	1,267	3,308	12%	3,033	11
Whitman	5,442	730	324	1,053	19%	971	18
Yakima	46,037	4,892	4,002	8,894	19%	8,803	19
State Total	1,050,458	101,581	60,008	161,589	15%	136,564	13

Due to its higher level of detail, totals in this table may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in this report.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Table A4. 1994 County-by-County Statistics: Children in Subsidized Child Care

Counties	Children in Poverty [7]	Children Subsidized in 1994 [8]	Children in Licensed Care Subsidized by DSHS in [9] Homes	Centers	Both
Adams	942	253	57	12	69
Asotin	1,369	394	18	231	249
Benton	4,634	2,087	403	300	703
Chelan	2,599	2,914	320	206	526
Clallam	2,140	806	77	205	282
Clark	8,104	4,372	540	584	1,123
Columbia	180	0	1	0	1
Cowlitz	3,730	1,240	133	116	249
Douglas	1,106	63	113	80	193
Ferry	484	0	0	6	6
Franklin	3,626	1,606	196	385	580
Garfield	55	1,450	2	0	2
Grant	4,148	0	420	70	490
Grays Har.	3,259	1,702	248	191	438
Island	1,498	574	74	43	117
Jefferson	894	296	24	30	54
King	28,087	17,434	1,492	4,481	5,973
Kitsap	6,368	2,103	296	461	757
Kittitas	918	445	40	59	98
Klickitat	853	425	63	0	63
Lewis	2,730	962	192	81	273
Lincoln	326	64	10	8	18
Mason	1,675	594	99	15	113
Okanogan	2,299	1,208	251	147	399
Pacific	1,045	180	30	6	36
Pend Oreille	660	160	5	0	5
Pierce	22,286	9,192	756	1,842	2,598
San Juan	172	68	18	5	23
Skagit	2,949	1,553	231	197	429
Skamania	216	96	55	8	63
Snohomish	9,783	6,197	527	1,309	1,836
Spokane	13,994	7,452	709	1,339	2,048
Stevens	1,906	421	225	69	294
Thurston	5,279	2,024	251	387	639
Wahkiakum	66	0	3	15	18
Walla Walla	2,276	1,442	92	181	273
Whatcom	3,822	1,476	226	254	480
Whitman	917	306	31	58	88
Yakima	13,958	6,843	964	1,290	2,254
State Total	160,405	78,402	9,190	14,668	23,858

Due to its higher level of detail, totals in this table may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in this report.

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
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Table A5. 1994 County-by-County Statistics: Average Price of Full-time Preschool Child Care

Counties	Average Monthly Rates for Full-Time Preschool Care in [10] Centers	Homes
Adams	na	$ 249
Asotin	$311	$ 250
Benton	$319	$ 294
Chelan	$301	$ 279
Clallam	$359	$ 303
Clark	$341	$ 300
Columbia	na	na
Cowlitz	$289	$ 284
Douglas	$313	$ 239
Ferry	na	na
Franklin	$300	$ 285
Garfield	na	na
Grant	$264	$ 259
Grays Har.	$285	$ 266
Island	$310	$ 297
Jefferson	na	$ 289
King	$433	$ 395
Kitsap	$330	$ 287
Kittitas	$265	$ 285
Klickitat	na	$ 268
Lewis	$243	$ 288
Lincoln	na	$ 218
Mason	na	$ 288
Okanogan	$250	$ 269
Pacific	na	$ 268
Pend Oreille	na	na
Pierce	$337	$ 304
San Juan	$300	$ 450
Skagit	$355	$ 313
Skamania	na	$ 178
Snohomish	$374	$ 343
Spokane	$297	$ 296
Stevens	$321	$ 295
Thurston	$352	$ 304
Wahkiakum	na	na
Walla Walla	$301	$ 272
Whatcom	$332	$ 343
Whitman	$345	$ 291
Yakima	$279	$ 241
State Total	$368	$ 321

DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis
1994 Survey of Child Care Centers and Homes

Notes for Appendix A.

Important: Due to missing values at the county level, totals from the county-by-county tables may not agree with totals shown elsewhere in the report.

Centers were interviewed between February 17 and March 24, 1994.

Homes were interviewed between April 1 and May 6, 1994.

[1] Sum of centers' licensed capacities.

[2] = FTE children in care + reported vacancies

[3] $= \frac{\text{Vacancies}}{\text{Licensed Slots}} \times 100$

[4] Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimate of 1994 population of children under 13 years old.

[5] $= \frac{\text{Children in Licensed Care}}{\text{All Children under 13}} \times 100$

[6] $= \frac{\text{Licensed Slots}}{\text{All Children under 13}} \times 100$

[7] Based on OFM estimates of 1994 populations and poverty rates estimated from the 1990 census.

[8] Annual unduplicated total for federal fiscal year 1994 from the DSHS Social Services Payment System (SSPS). Includes unlicensed care.

[9] Surveys of centers and family homes. Excludes unlicensed care.

[10] We do not show average rates for counties with fewer than 5 facilities.

APPENDIX B

MAPS WITH COUNTY-LEVEL CHILD CARE STATISTICS

Figure B1. Washington Counties

Figure B2. Number of Centers

Figure B3. Number of Slots in Centers

Figure B4. Number of Licensed Homes

Figure B5. Number of Slots in Homes

Figure B6. Total Licensed Capacity

Figure B7. Total Population (0-12 years)

Figure B8. Licensed Slots per 100 Children

Figure B9. DSHS-Subsidized Children in Licensed Care

Figure B10. Total Reported Vacancies

Figure B11. Percent Vacancies

Washington Counties

Figure B1.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Number of Centers

1994

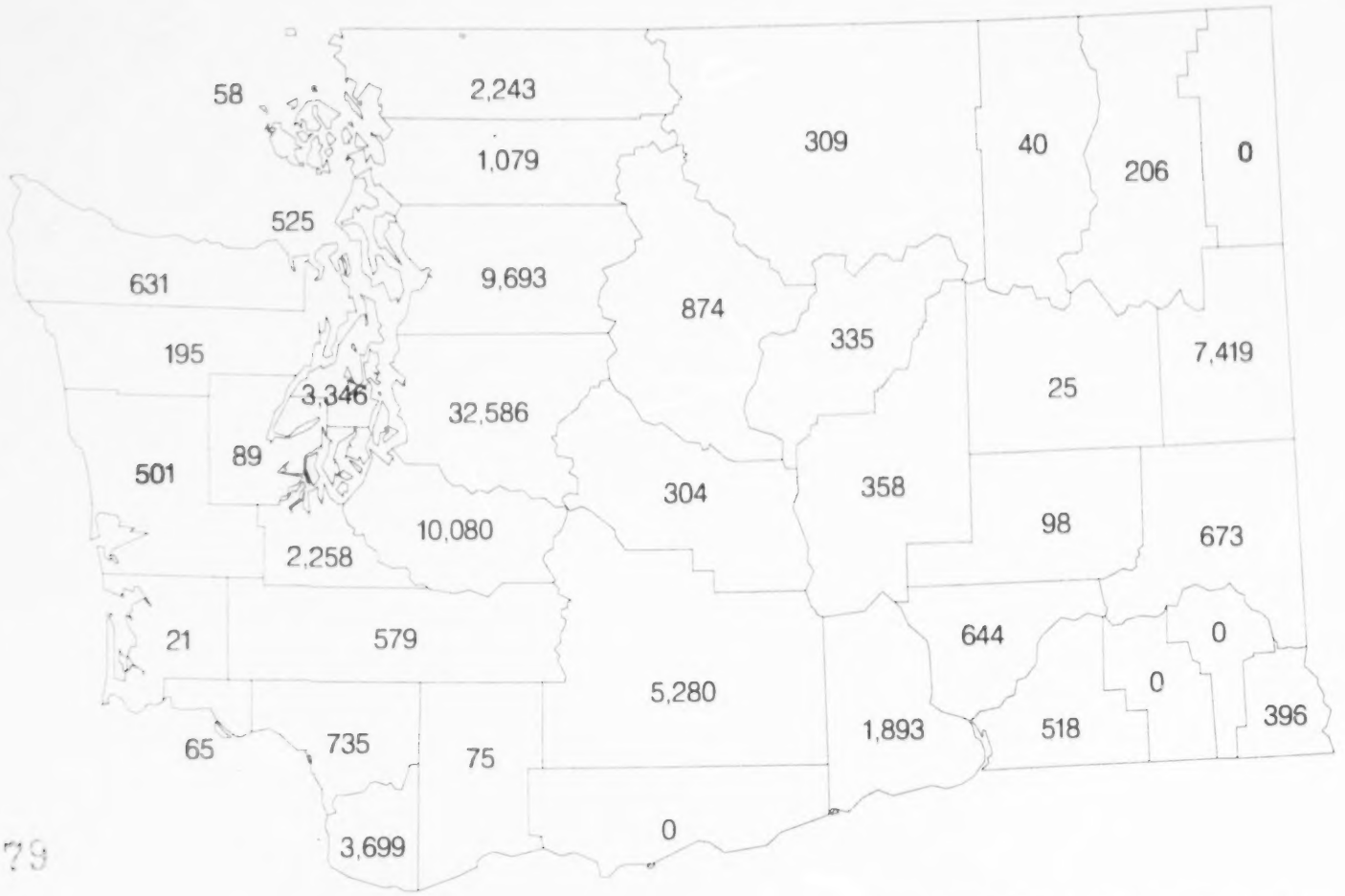
Figure B2.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Number of Slots in Centers

1994

Figure B3.

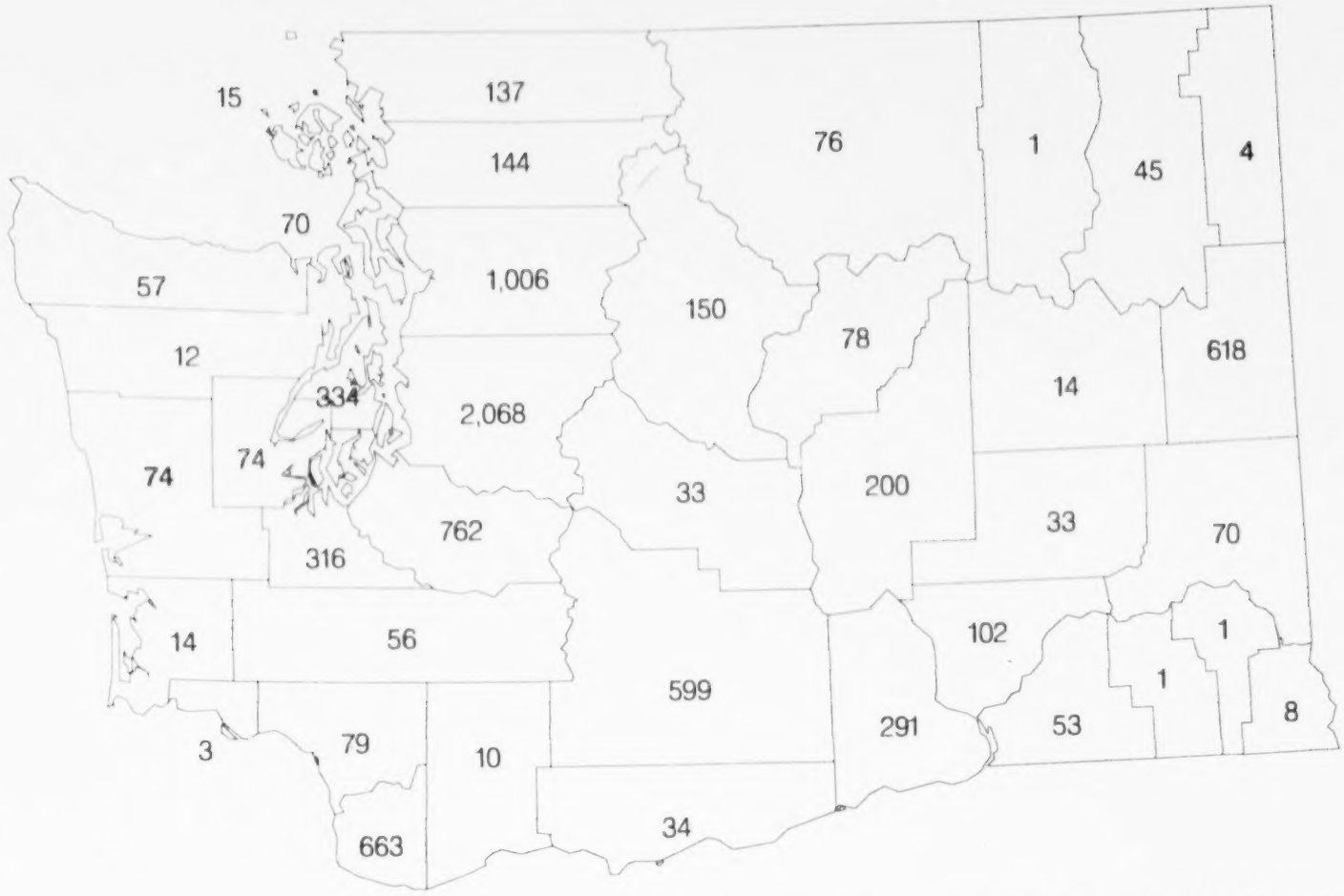


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Number of Licensed Homes

1994

Figure B4.

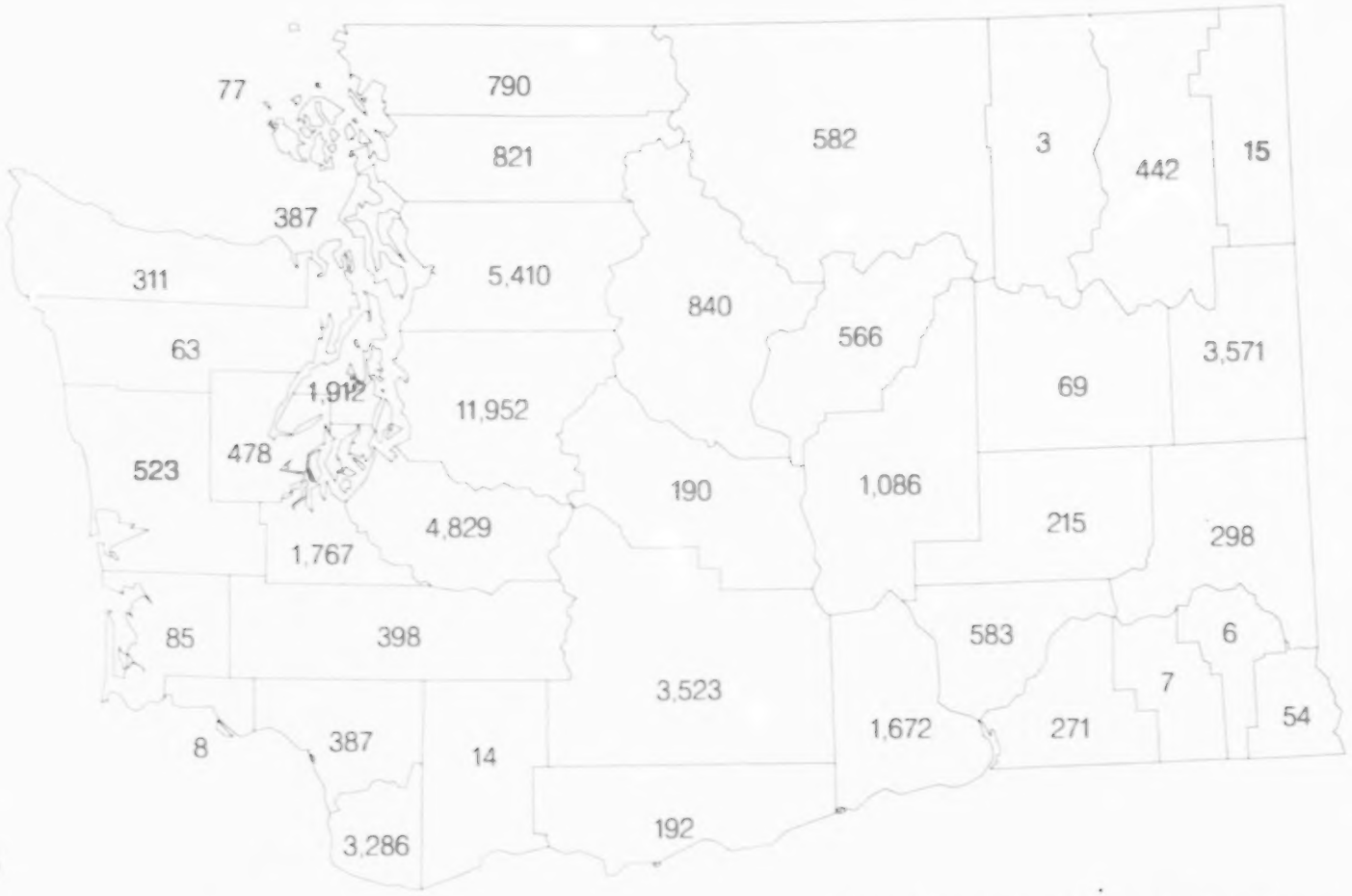


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Number of Slots in Homes

1994

Figure B5.



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Total Licensed Capacity

1994

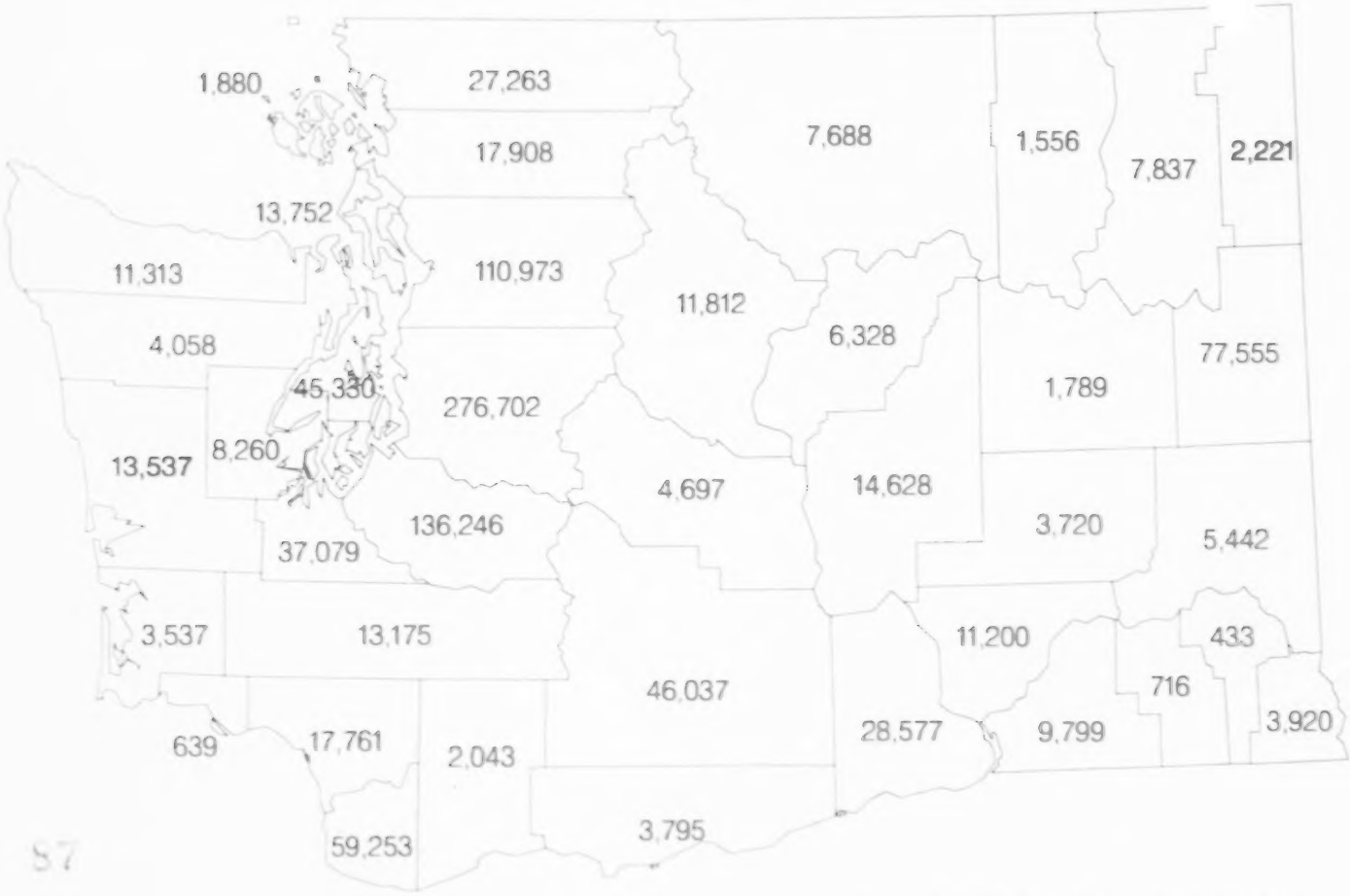
Figure B6.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Total Population (0–12 years)

1994

Figure B7.



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Licensed Slots per 100 Children

1994

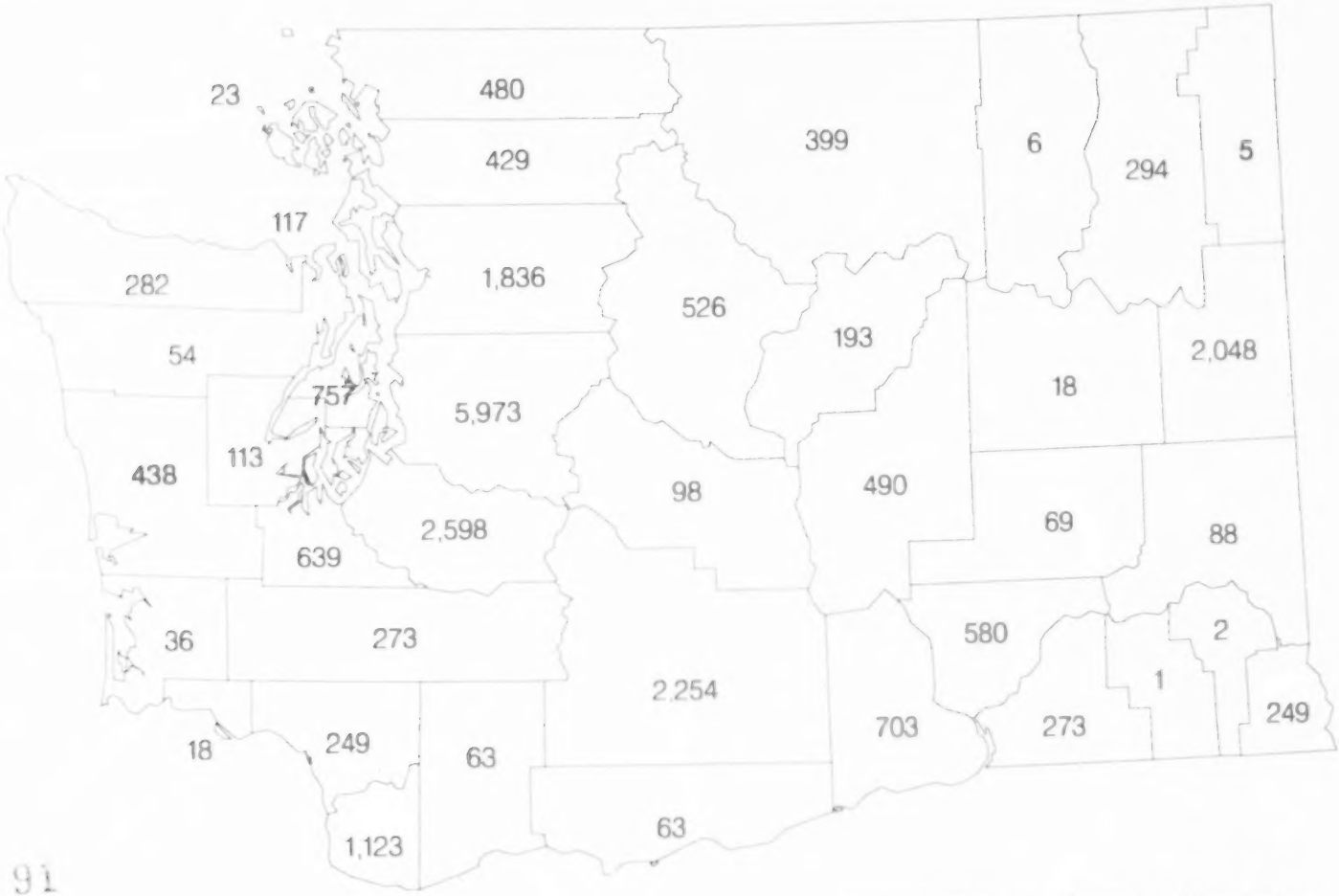
Figure B8.

Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

DSHS – Subsidized Children in Licensed Care

1994

Figure B9.

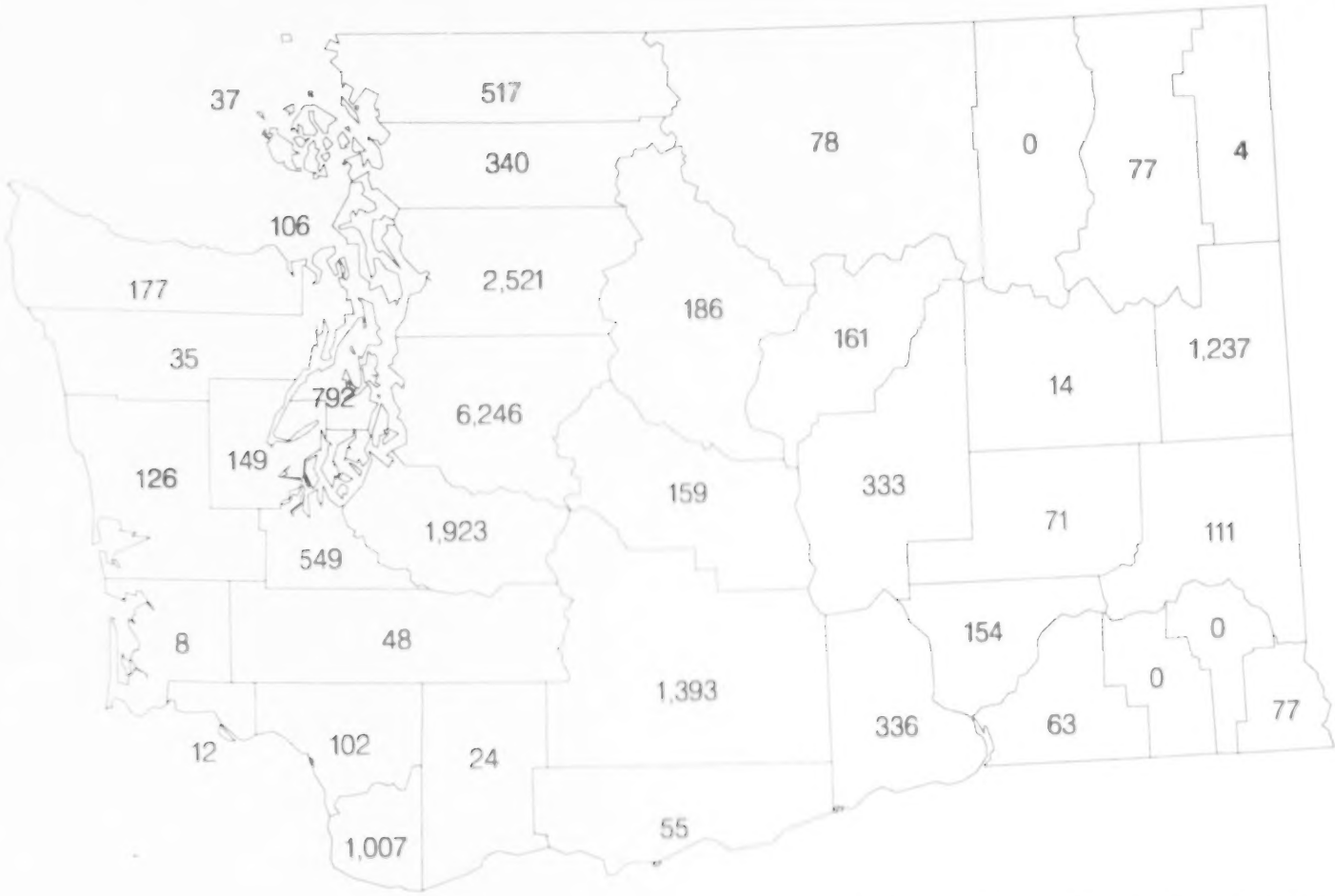


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Total Reported Vacancies

1994

Figure B10.

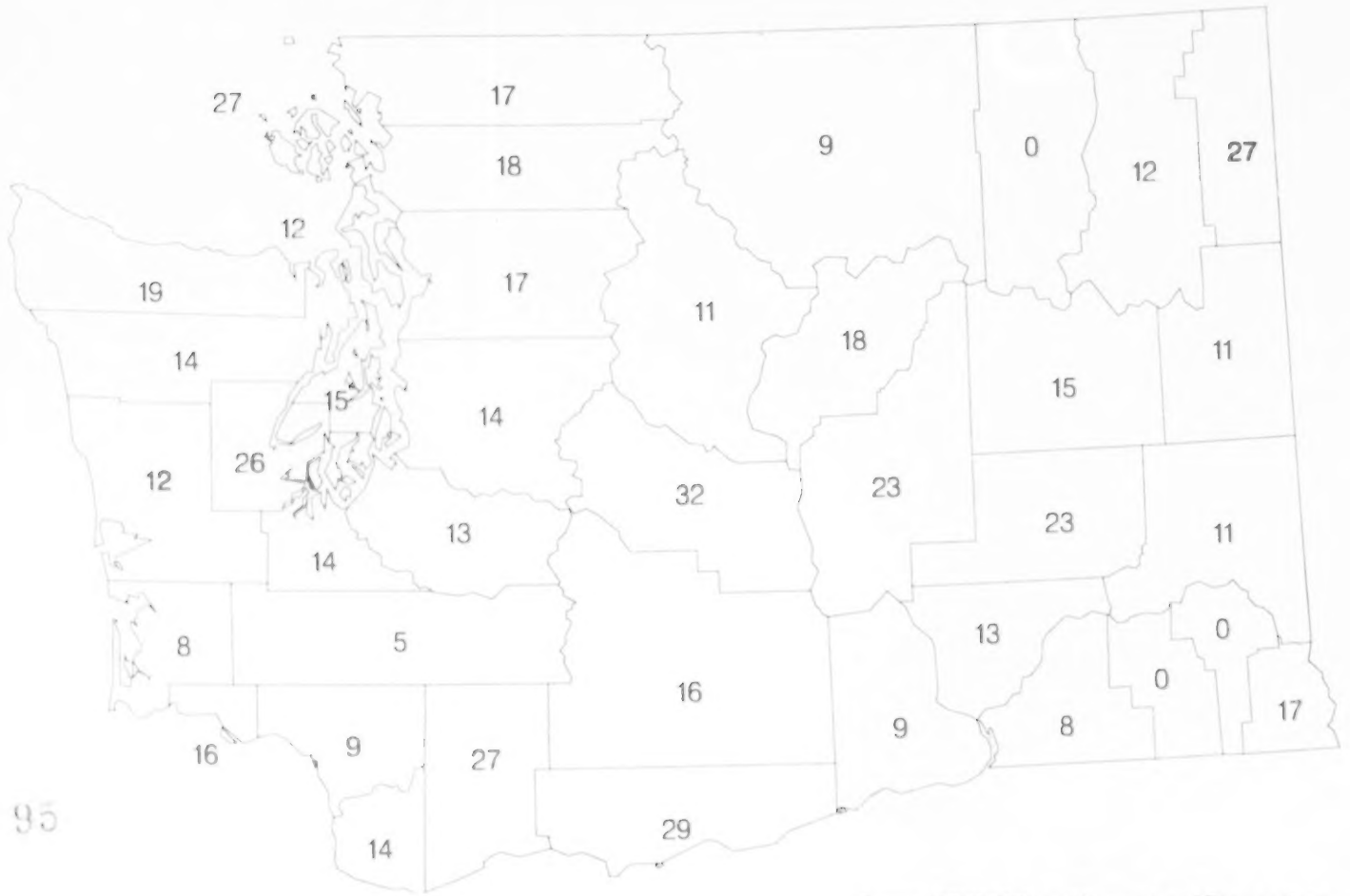


Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

Percent Vacancies

(Vacancies as Percent Capacity) 1994

Figure B11.



Source: DSHS Office of Research and Data Analysis

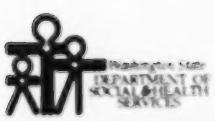
APPENDIX C

PREVIOUS DSHS CHILD CARE RATE CLUSTERS

Based on rate data collected in the 1990 child care rate survey, the state was divided into four child care rate clusters. The clusters were formed by grouping together counties with similar child care costs, and for the purpose of setting DSHS maximum rates according to local markets. These clusters were in use until December, 1995, when DSHS switched from using clusters to using its six administrative regions in setting child care maximum rates.

Previous Child Care Rate Clusters
Obsolete as of December, 1995

Cluster-1	Cluster-2	Cluster-3	Cluster-4
Asotin	Adams	Benton	Island
Cowlitz	Columbia	Chelan	Jefferson
Ferry	Douglas	Clallam	King
Garfield	Grant	Clark	San Juan
Klickitat	Grays Harbor	Franklin	Snohomish
Lewis	Kittitas	Kitsap	
Lincoln	Skamania	Pacific	
Mason	Stevens	Pend Oreille	
Okanogan	Walla Walla	Pierce	
	Yakima	Skagit	
		Spokane	
		Thurston	
		Wahkiahum	
		Whatcom	
		Whitman	



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